

Monday February 16 1998

Albania D 0.50
Andorra FF 10
Australia A\$ 30
Austria S 30
Belgium B 30
Canada C\$ 30
Czechia K 12.50
Cyprus C 10
Denmark D 10
Ecuador E 10
Finland F 10
France FF 10
Germany DM 3.00
Greece D 200
Hong Kong HK\$ 25
Hungary H 100
Ireland I 100
Italy L 200
Japan Y 100
Korea K 100
Kuwait K 100
Labrador L 100
Latvia L 100
Lithuania L 100
Luxembourg L 100
Malta M 100
Netherlands G 4.25
Norway N 10
Oman O 100
Pakistan P 100
Poland Z 100
Portugal P 100
Romania R 100
Russia R 100
Saudi Arabia R 100
Singapore S 100
Slovakia S 100
Slovenia S 100
Spain P 100
Sweden S 100
Switzerland S 100
Taiwan T 100
Thailand T 100
Turkey T 100
USA US\$ 3.00

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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The Four Weddings star talks of youth

Charlotte grows up

G2 with European weather

Media

How the BBC ruined Newsnight

G2 pages 10-11

Power play

Newcastle storm to top of the table

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Clinton plea on Ulster talks

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

PRESIDENT Clinton is understood to want Sinn Féin back in the multi-party negotiations on Northern Ireland's future before the St Patrick's Day celebrations at the White House, it emerged last night.

Sinn Féin is likely to be suspended from the talks for four weeks when the talks reopen in Dublin today, despite warnings from the party that it might be impossible to return.

Mr Clinton, who has been in telephone contact with Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, hopes that Sinn Féin can be kept on board and the IRA ceasefire intact with the promise of a speedy re-entry.

A talks source in Dublin said last night: "The Irish-American constituency is important to the President. It would look good for him to have all the talks participants there at the function. But it depends on Sinn Féin being in the talks."

The St Patrick's Day event at the White House on March 17 is one of the highlights in the Washington calendar. Sinn Féin was excluded last year because there was no IRA ceasefire, but the Ulster Unionists attended then and are expected to do so again.

The Ulster Democratic Party is expected to be back in the talks next Monday, four weeks after it was removed. If Sinn Féin receives the same suspension, it would be able to go to the White House.

The President also faces a tough decision over Gerry Adams' plans to visit Washington. New York for three days later this month. He will have to decide whether to grant Mr Adams a visa while Sinn Féin is suspended and is expected to take guidance from Downing Street, which is keen to avoid any publicity coup.

The party's suspension comes after Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC chief constable, said that he believed the IRA was behind two murders in Belfast last week.

But Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, dealt a blow to hopes that the party would be back at the conference table if it was expelled. He predicted problems with a Sinn Féin return, but refused to say whether he believed the IRA ceasefire would hold.

Mr McGuinness told BBC's On The Record: "We could conceivably have a situation where people out there who are attempting to destroy the peace process and any hopes of a negotiated settlement could conspire to create circumstances which would make it impossible for Sinn Féin to get back on the talks."

He declined to be specific. "This is a very dangerous, very serious, and very grave situation. We are seeking to avoid that, and I think that the only way it can be avoided is by the British government facing up to the reality that it has no cause to exclude Sinn Féin from these talks."

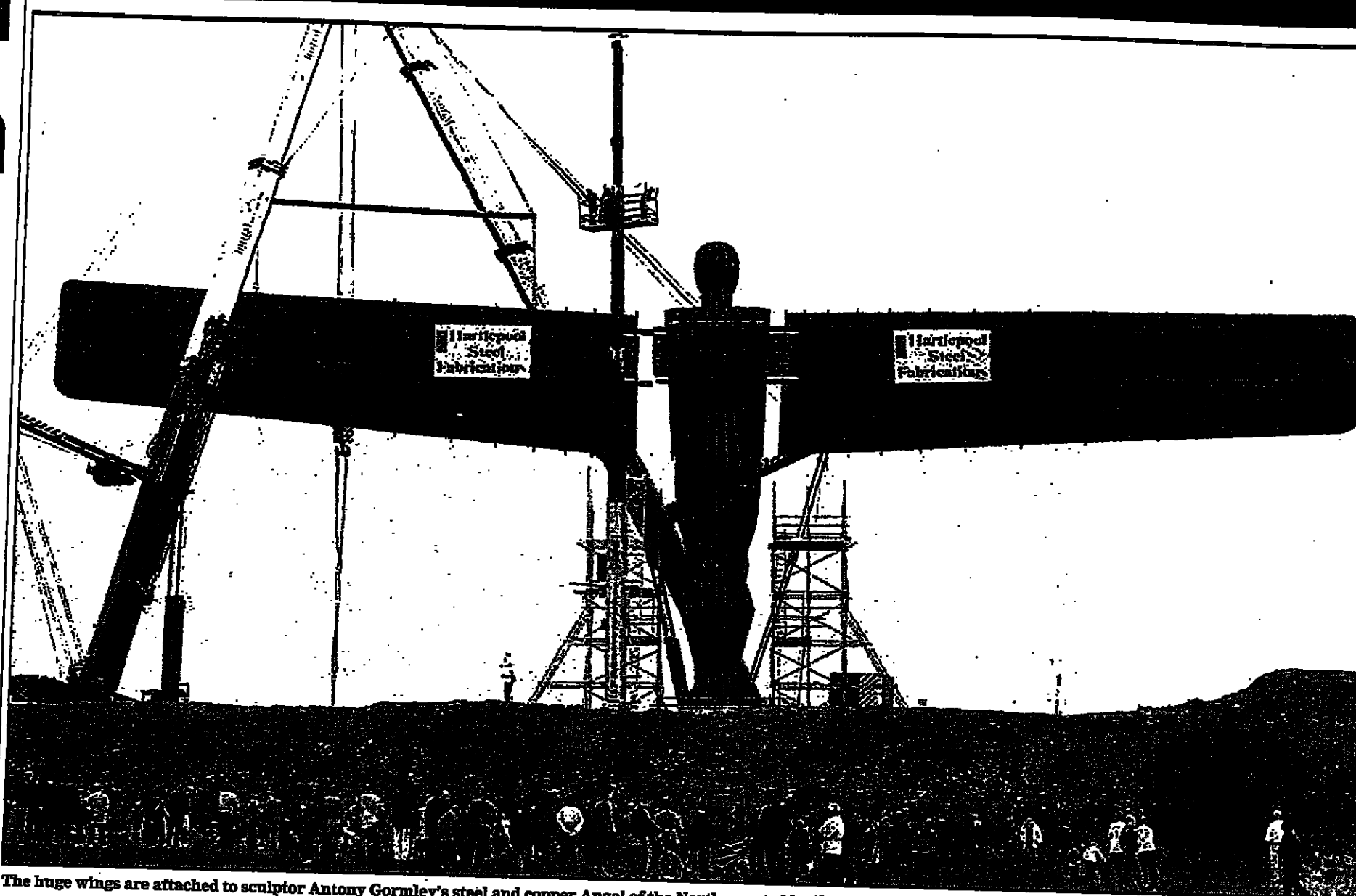
Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP, indicated that if Sinn Féin was formally to sever all links with the IRA, it might have a case to remain in the talks. That would depend on it disavowing the IRA and condemning its murders.

Mr McGuinness made it clear that Sinn Féin would not be adopting that approach. It will fight to remain at the table when discussions open today. It is considering a judicial review of any decision to expel it, and has taken legal advice.

Under the Mitchell Principles underpinning the talks, Sinn Féin is expected to be told to leave because the British and Irish governments regard it as "inextricably linked" to the IRA.

Four men will appear in court in Belfast this morning over the killing of loyalist Bobby Douglas, 35. He was shot as he waited in his car for a family friend in Dummur last Tuesday.

New friend in the North



The huge wings are attached to sculptor Antony Gormley's steel and copper Angel of the North, erected by the A1 at Gateshead yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: OWEN HUMPHREYS

Traffic stops as Angel spreads his wings

Peter Hetherington

NO ONE, least of all the artist and the engineer, expected it to be quite so big. Yes, they were well acquainted with the dimensions — 20 metres high with a jumbo-jet wingspan and feet the size of tugboats — but the sheer scale and majesty of Britain's biggest sculpture caught everyone by surprise last night.

More than 200 tonnes of copper-treated steel, tenderly fashioned into something approaching a human form by heating, bending, bashing and welding, slowly emerged throughout the day on a man-made mound high above the A1 in Gateshead.

By nightfall the Angel of the North was born, its body and two wings lifted into position by two giant cranes and bolted together by acrobatic fitters.

Traffic came to a halt as thousands ignored the advice of the local council and crowded around a structure



'Nice little pelvic bulge, and even though I'm a bit of a strange shape there's no question that it is a man'

Antony Gormley, sculptor (left)

that became Britain's most famous piece of public art even before it was erected.

Suddenly, remarkably, the £800,000 angel had become a bigger celebrity than Tyneside's other favourite son, a £15 million centre forward, Newcastle United may have seen better days but Gateshead, always the poor relation on the wrong side of the Tyne Bridge, was at last welcoming a new cultural dawn.

The three sections had arrived like royalty after a five-hour, 30-mile trip on low loaders from a fabrication works at Hartlepool.

Crowds lined every bridge and roadside verge to watch the spectacle — and finally welcome wings and body to the designated mound, site of an old colliery baths, on the southern approaches to Gateshead.

At first light yesterday the angel's creator, Antony

Gormley, Turner prize-winning sculptor, was bounding around the site in hard hat as the cranes swung into action. The 100-tonne body, blown up from a plaster-cast impression of Gormley's own form, was up in 20 minutes, secured by 52 three-metre bolts to 150 tonnes of concrete foundations.

As Gormley enthused about his masterpiece, made from "weathering steel" with some copper, the Seddon family were welcoming their new neighbour, which dominates the living room window of their home a few hundred yards south.

"I thought it was going to be cylindrical but look at those wonderful contours," enthused Marie Seddon. "What a tremendous spectacle, and yes, definitely male. It has all the shapes for a man and seems to be saying, 'Look at me, I'm powerful'."

Gormley — deeply offended at one stage during the five-year project when critics labelled the angel

fascist — said he did not want to be diverted by a debate on the sexuality of his sculpture, nurtured by Gateshead council with Lottery funding.

"Nice little pelvic bulge, and even though I'm a bit of a strange shape there's no question that it is a man," he said. "It would be a horrible thing if it was asexual. I don't understand all this angel stuff, nobody's ever

seen one and the sexuality of angels I'm sure has fuelled many debates. But I think we've got more important things to do."

He was overwhelmed by the scale. "This is the first time I've really seen it, apart from in the workshop, and in the landscape for which it was designed it's going to be fine. I feel very confident. There's a proportional 'rightness' about it."

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Tax exile to help finance Conservative relaunch

Foreign gifts outlawed and big donors named under new rules

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

WILLIAM Hague's relaunch of the Conservative Party today is to be partly financed for the next year by a multi-millionaire tax exile who lives in Florida and can only spend 90 days a year in Britain.

Michael Ashcroft, appointed by William Hague as deputy treasurer of the Tory party, has agreed to bankroll the party if he cannot raise

from other sources the £16 million needed to put the Conservatives' finances back on an even keel.

But Mr Ashcroft's agreement appears to be at variance with the spirit of the new rules to be announced today, under which the party will no longer accept foreign donations. It will also agree to publish the names of its big donors.

The party has moved on foreign donors after being dogged by controversy in recent years. Asif Nadeem, the Cypriot

businessman who fled Britain following the collapse of his Polly Peck empire and still faces criminal charges, gave £440,000 to the party.

Last month it emerged that one of Hong Kong's wealthiest dynasties, the Ma family, had given £1 million to the Tories. Ma Ching-kwan said the money had been given in the hope the party would help his father, who fled the colony after charges of multi-million pound drug trafficking.

In both cases the Tories refused to return the money. Labour is certain to seize on Mr Ashcroft's position as an offshore millionaire raising cash for the Conservatives while not paying United

Kingdom taxes. The Tories have spent several months salvaging Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, over his £15 million offshore trust in Guernsey.

Mr Ashcroft is chairman of the BHI Corporation, which makes its profits from Central America and the Caribbean. He is better known as the former owner of the Bermuda-based ADT group, which promoted car auctions and sold burglar alarms. He sold the company for £154 million on the day Tony Blair won the general election.

Mr Ashcroft is deputy to Sir Graham Kirkham, the party treasurer, who made £130 million when he floated

DFS furniture on the stock market and gave the Tories a £4 million interest-free loan.

Mr Ashcroft built up his business interests in the Caribbean after moving ADT from London to Bermuda. He has developed extensive interests in Belize, the former British colony of British Honduras, acquired citizenship and became Belize's ambassador to the EC.

His principal residence for tax purposes is in Boca Raton, Florida, and under Inland Revenue regulations he can spend a maximum of only 90 days a year in Britain if he does not wish to pay tax.

His main job as deputy treasurer is to raise money.



Inside

Britain

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World News

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Finance

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Sport

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2 NEWS

The Guardian Monday February 16 1998

Ambulance trust loses three-year contract to transport people to hospital as privatisation of non-emergency services continues

Minicab firm wins £1m patient deal

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

THE London Ambulance Service has lost one of its biggest contracts to a minicab company which has moved into the patient transport market.

M&L Cars will from April 1 be responsible for 130,000 trips a year to and from hospitals in the City and east London. The deal is worth at least £1 million annually.

The coup by the company, based in Hackney, east London, reflects a fast-growing trend of privatisation of non-emergency ambulance services, now regarded separately to 999 teams.

Ambulance staff unions had hoped the Labour government would halt the trend. But ministers have done nothing to head off the private companies, which are not bound to national pay rates.

M&L has recently taken two other contracts off the

LAS, serving the Royal Brompton hospital in west London and the Tower Hamlets Healthcare trust in east London, so that the ambulance trust has lost work totalling £1.8 million.

The latest blow is the loss of a three-year contract with the Royal Hospitals trust, involving servicing the prestigious Royal London and Bart's hospitals.

Don Page, director of the LAS central division, said the decision made redundant 20 ambulances and put at risk 34

jobs. Whether transfer-of-undertakings rules would apply, protecting the staff and their terms, was in dispute with M&L.

The contract would be a big challenge for M&L, which had hitherto operated only "a very small fleet of cars and a few ambulances".

Although the Government was supposedly reviewing competitive tendering in the NHS, Mr Page said, "the trend in patient transport services is that competition has increased in the past 12

months rather than decreased".

One of the LAS staff affected by the Royal Hospitals contract switch said he and his colleagues — who had helped at major incidents like the Broadgate and Docklands bombings — had been "thrown on the scrapheap".

The public should be seriously concerned at a private company's ability to provide an adequate service, said the staff member, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of disciplinary action.

However, Michael Byrne, M&L's managing director, insisted his company was winning business on merit. He said: "Every contract we have won has been not on price, but on quality."

Employees were uniform and carried identification, were trained to recognised standards by the British Red Cross and used vehicles which would be bought new for the Royal Hospitals contract.

The company, which had started as a courier business,

had been working in patient transport since 1992 when it had been invited to be a sub-contractor to the LAS, he said.

"It looks a bit like sour grapes that we were good enough for sub-contracting, but we're not good enough now our knowledge, experience and caring record has made us successful."

Mr Byrne said solicitors were dealing with transfer-of-undertakings issues.

Neither Mr Byrne nor the Royal Hospitals trust would

confirm the value of the contract.

Howard Fell, the trust's authorisation officer, said: "Whilst the tendered price naturally formed part of our considerations, it was certainly not the overriding factor."

"We are entirely satisfied that our chosen partner is fully able to meet our service specifications and... will strive to maintain, and where possible improve upon, the standards of service already in place."

UN chief to meet Saddam as more bombers go to Gulf

Richard Norton-Taylor

KOFI Annan, the UN secretary-general, is expected to fly to Baghdad this week for a head-to-head meeting with Saddam Hussein in a last-ditch attempt to avert military strikes against Iraq by the US and Britain.

The two governments stepped up their campaign to prepare public opinion for military action. As Washington yesterday sent more stealth bombers to the Gulf, Sandy Berger, President Clinton's national security adviser, warned that the US would not flinch from repeated attacks on Iraq, to eliminate President Saddam's chemical and biological warfare capability once and for all.

"The one constant he [Saddam Hussein] must understand is that the international community is not gonna go away — the United States is not gonna go away," he said.

Mr Annan will today meet representatives of all five permanent members of the UN Security Council, where a majority are opposed to an attack on Iraq. Russia, China and France are opposed to the use of force — a position they repeated yesterday — although British officials insist the five are united in the aim to rid Iraq of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in compliance with past Security Council resolutions.

In advance of tomorrow's Commons debate on Iraq, George Robertson, the De-

fence Secretary, strove to counter widespread scepticism — shared by Norman Schwarzkopf and Sir Peter de la Billiere — that military force would not achieve the Government's objectives.

"What we will do will be proportionate, and designed to reduce his military capability and especially his capability to deploy weapons of mass destruction," Mr Robertson said on BBC TV's Breakfast With Frost programme.

He condemned as "disgraceful and irresponsible" claims that British defence chiefs were not fully behind the US and British strategy

'The one constant Saddam must understand is that the US is not gonna go away'

against what he called "the evil dictator".

In an article in the Observer, Tony Blair said the aim of any military action would be to "diminish significantly Saddam's ability to deploy, conceal and recreate his weapons of mass destruction capability or threaten his neighbours".

He said he was willing to contemplate military action not because "I am 'slavish' towards the US or get a kick out of war".

In one of a string of interviews, Mr Robertson told Sky News's Sunday programme

there could be room for movement on the numbers and nationality of UN weapons inspectors in Iraq. "We can look at the possibility of recruiting new inspectors, other inspectors from other countries, if that is going to be acceptable," he said.

Hopes for a way out of the crisis now seem to rest on whether President Saddam would be able to claim some sort of victory over the US by dealing with Mr Annan, rather than an Unscorn inspection team which he accuses of being a creature of the Americans.

But there seems little room for manoeuvre on substance. British officials again insisted yesterday that any deal must include continued "unfettered access" to locations with suspected Iraqi chemical and biological weapons.

"There must be a written agreement which would not undermine that integrity and authority of Unscorn," the Foreign Office said yesterday.

A team of UN technicians, led by Staffan de Mistura, a Swede, and including two Austrian surveyors, arrived in Baghdad yesterday to map the eight disputed sites which, Iraq says, are situated in the governorates of Baghdad, Salahuddin, Basra and Nineveh and cover 26 square miles.

Iraq's vice-president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, told Russia's special envoy to Iraq, Viktor Posuvalyuk, that Iraq was "sincere and serious about finding a diplomatic solution to the crisis manufactured by America".

Decision time, page 6

Wartime sequel



Big bang... The German bomb is exploded at Chippenham yesterday, 55 years after it was dropped. PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS ISON

Only casualties are broken windows as Luftwaffe bomb is detonated

WITH a blast that rocked buildings a mile away and sent a huge fountain of earth shooting hundreds of feet into the air, a 1,000lb second world war bomb was finally detonated yesterday after lying undetected for more than 55 years beneath a Wiltshire field, writes Geoffrey Gibbs.

More than 1,000 people were forced to spend the weekend away from their homes on two estates on the outskirts of Chippenham after the bomb was discovered during work to build a new secondary school.

Police decided to evacuate homes and declare an 800-metre exclusion zone around the site on Friday after the 5ft-long device, dropped by the Luftwaffe during a raid in 1942, was found to be unstable.

Army bomb disposal experts had hoped to be able to defuse the bomb but were forced to abandon their attempts when it began sinking deeper into the mud of a 30ft crater.

Hundreds of sightseers yesterday gathered in a safety zone overlooking the field in which the bomb disposal team was working. Many were astounded by the force of the explosion.

Police said damage from the explosion had been restricted to a small number of window panes.

The huge bomb was uncovered thanks to the sharp memory of a local farmer, Tony Crew, who was six years old when German planes dropped several devices in nearby fields.

Recalling that some had not exploded, he raised the alarm during the period of public consultation for the building of the new school last year and excavations of the site began last week.

Yesterday he watched the explosion on television at a friend's house.

"Watching it made me think what it would have done if it had gone off at the time. I am very relieved it is all over — it has been a very trying weekend."

Search for mother after baby found beside river

Amelia Gentleman

APOLICE search was launched yesterday for the mother of a baby found abandoned in mysterious circumstances on the veranda of a riverside yacht club.

Joey Isaacs, aged 21 months, was found naked, semi-conscious and suffering from hypothermia at 7.30pm on Saturday. His mother's clothes, jewellery and watch were found later by the riverbank, alongside the baby's clothes and pushchair.

Police are concerned that Jackie Isaacs, aged 31, might have drowned when she went swimming in the River Thames outside Thurrock Yacht Club in Essex.

Chief Inspector Terry Shearn, leading the inquiry, said Mrs Isaacs had said to club staff earlier that it was

perfect weather for swimming, but had been advised against it because of the strong current. She was later seen paddling in the river with her baby.

Detectives added that suicide had not been ruled out. However, staff at the club said Mrs Isaacs had seemed cheerful earlier in the afternoon.

Police helicopters yesterday scanned the area around the yacht club, aided by the Thames Navigation Authority. A team of more than 30 officers and sniffer dogs searched the surrounding streets and moorings.

Mr Shearn told a news conference: "We are growing more concerned by the hour as to Mrs Isaacs' whereabouts."

"We have not ruled out the possibility that she might have drowned while going for a swim in the river — but nobody actually saw her swim-

ming. We have also not ruled out the possibility of suicide or the possibility that for some reason she took off and is in fact safe and well somewhere."

Mrs Isaacs, a mother of three who lives locally, had gone to the yacht club at about 3pm. Her two other children, both aged under 10, were staying with their father for the weekend.

The baby was taken to Basildon hospital where doctors diagnosed hypothermia, caused by lying naked in the cold for around two hours. Police said he was making a good recovery last night, with his father by his bedside.

Mrs Isaacs is described as about 5ft 9in tall with shoulder-length brown permed curly hair. She was last seen wearing blue leggings, a ribbed tee-shirt and she may have had a grey waist-length jacket.

Cheerful chaos prevails as Saint Julian keeps rabbiting on

Review

Adam Sweeting

Julian Cope

Astoria, London

TALK IS cheap, but you still got a catering-size portion for the admission fee. Julian Cope could rabbit on until the cows come home.

So could his support act, Murray Lachlan Young, Parlophone's former million-

pound poet. Murray may be remembered, if he's lucky, as the Titanic of contemporary verse, but he fitted in quite well with the air of relaxed anarchy that prevails at a Cope event. With his T-shirt and shoulder-length hair, he looked as if he had just been onstage with Free at the Isle of Wight in 1970, but he talks like a louche aristocrat who has inherited not a fortune, but a pile of ancestral debts. His poems are delivered against backing tracks that throb like an old engine about to explode. The crowd seemed to take a shine to him.

Cope needs no introduction, but he delivered quite a long one nevertheless. Having spent a couple of years locked away writing a book about runes, ley-lines and what have you, Saint Julian is delighted to be out in public again, with a willing audience to gush at.

For the occasion, he appeared in a bizarre multi-coloured smock and black tights, with a great lump of hair falling down the right-hand side of his face. His ease with a crowd, and his gift for surreal anecdotes, could easily make him the first New Age chat-show host. He kept

reminding himself to "get on with it", and managed to cram in a heap of favourite songs. Autogeddo Blues raised cheers, and Cope was happy to comply with shouted requests for Soul Desert.

He picked up a turquoise 12-string guitar for a new song. Everything Blows Me Away, and added his own wub-wub vocals to the pinging bluesy riff of Paranormal in the West Country.

Musically it was hit and miss, with Cope skilfully pulling Robert Mitchum and Las Vegas Basement, but floundering on the high notes

of The Great Dominions (played on a mellotron). But the tone of whimsical chaos was skilfully maintained, as Cope cheerfully allowed blokes to come onstage and kiss him passionately, tossed out fragments of un-poetry such as Poet is Priest, or plugged anti-Gulf war demonstrations. "Those really hard policemen with sharks' eyes? Kiss them, they love that," he urged.

Eventually time ran out and they had to drag him onstage, though not before he had played the self-descriptive Passionate Friend. Rave on!

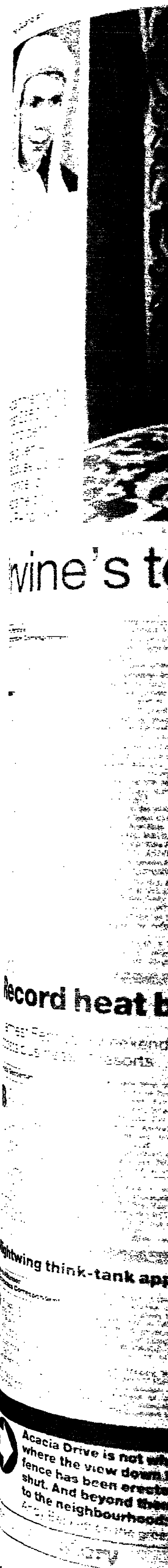
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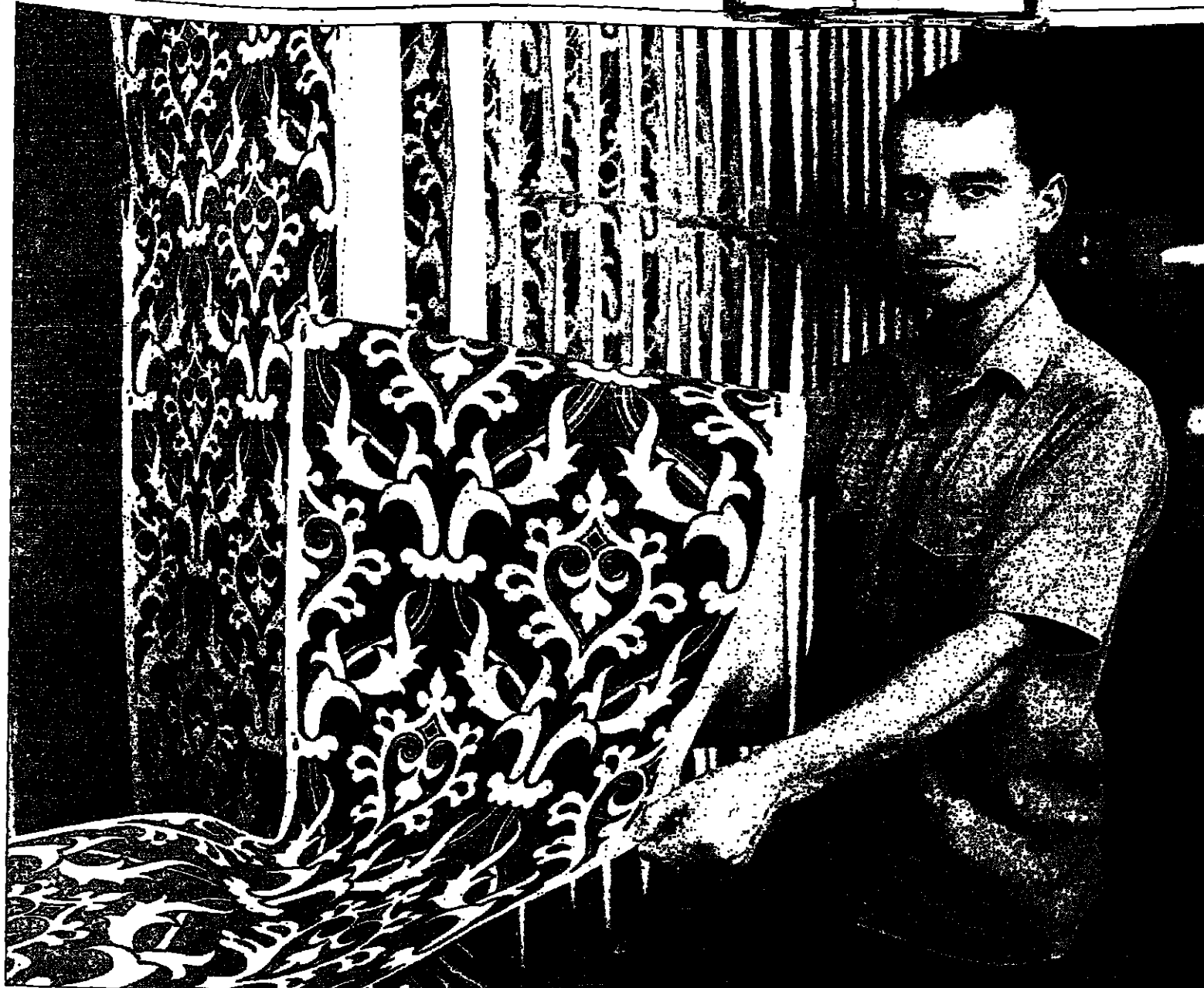
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Lord Irvine: secrecy clause in contract

Apartments to cost £650,000 but no details are given – because Lord Chancellor fears he could be IRA target



Back to basics... A replica of the Pugin-style wallpaper which is to be hung in the Lord Chancellor's residence

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES WISEMAN

Irvine's top-secret makeover

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

LORD Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, has put a secrecy clause into a £650,000 refurbishment contract for his official apartment in the House of Lords because he feared that he could be a victim of an IRA mortar attack.

A cabinet minister told the Guardian: "The only explanation for the use of the Official Secrets Act in a government contract is on security grounds. Lord Irvine's residence faces directly on to the River Thames and it is theoretically possible to launch an attack from across the river or from the Victoria Embankment gardens."

"Details of the contract could reveal the measurements of the windows and it would be possible to identify the apartment," he said.

The minister's comments follow the disclosure yesterday that Lord Irvine's bill for restoring his apartment is nearly double the £333,784 released to Parliament last November, and will now cost the taxpayer £650,000.

The contract includes a

clause binding contractors to the Official Secrets Act, 1989, which carries a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment or a large fine.

The disclosure of the cost of the refurbishment led to demands for an inquiry by John Redwood, the Conservative trade and industry spokesman, who said yesterday he would be tabling questions in Parliament on the costs.

"The level of extravagant spending is something that must be investigated. We must know whether it was good value for money, and I shall be asking the appropriate parliamentary authorities to look into this."

Approval of the project appears to have been given by a small sub-committee in the House of Lords, which covers expenditure and does not publish details of its decisions.

The refurbishment includes restoring the apartment to its former 19th century glory at the time it was designed by Augustus Pugin, Lord Irvine, an art historian, is believed to have given advice on the correct designs to reflect the period.

The costs include a £145,000 bill for curtains, carpets and upholstery. The drapes will

be made of silk and wool to the elaborate designs of the last century. They have been ordered from an Essex company at a cost of £200 per yard.

Some £60,000 has been spent on elaborate wallpaper for the apartment, while orders have been placed for two beds, costing £8,000 each, and a dining table to seat 10, costing a further £25,000. Existing furniture will go into store.

Officials in the House of Lords have been ordered to scour the stores to find three chaises longues, two wardrobes, chairs and a sideboard, all in the Pugin style, to furnish the apartment.

The spending will take a sizeable sum out of the £3.46 million being spent by the House of Lords this year on major projects. The figures are published annually in the Cabinet Office's accounts but no detailed breakdown is given of expenditure.

Lord Irvine is promising to open the apartment to the public when he is not in residence – a pledge which has caused some scepticism in Whitehall as it seems to contradict the need for secrecy on the refurbishment contract.

High quality it may be, but design puts branding of Britain back by a century, writes **Clare Longrigg**

AUGUSTUS Pugin's Gothic Revival prints and roses and crowns, redolent of stuffy 19th-century opulence, are not exactly what Tony Blair had in mind when launching the design concept Cool Britannia. Lord Irvine's foray into interior design has put the clock back on the branding of Britain by at least a century.

The Prime Minister has already shown an interest in the contemporary art and music scene. Perhaps he should have invited Lord Irvine to one of his cocktail parties and introduced him to a few designers.

Lord Irvine could have chosen Paxton Locher, whose pure white interiors and minimalist use of silver and glass have put Britain back on the design map.

Or Ben Kelly, designer of the Science Museum and the Design Council, a

genius at manipulating space.

Or Will White, whose acid colours and purple pillars would have made an interesting comment on the Gothic exterior.

Sarah Wigglesworth, whose house is made of straw bales and sandbags with a grass roof, could have offered tourists and visiting statesmen a showcase on avant-garde materials.

But the Lord Chancellor has chosen to stick with the original design, with fold-

ing drapes and secret plotting, and emblems of yesterday's England.

His choice was defended yesterday by the design consultant Nicolette le Pelley, who said the silks made by the Humphries Weaving Company would never go out of fashion.

Min Hogg, editor of the design bible, World of Interiors, said that the Humphries Weaving Company was regarded "very, very, very highly".

The apartments are being restored in the style of Augustus Pugin, architect of the Houses of Parliament, and are faithful to his lavish Gothic interiors and bold, bright colours. It was essential to stay true to the original, said Ms Hogg.

Dr Tom Butler, Bishop of Leicester, said the decision to have the body resting in the

Powell to lie in abbey but not in state, critics told

John Eard

THE body of Enoch Powell will spend tomorrow night, its last night above the earth, lying in a chapel at Westminster Abbey, it was confirmed amid outrage yesterday.

But one word makes all the difference. The politician who delivered the "rivers of blood" speech will not, as his critics thought, be "lying in state" in ceremonial endorsement of his views on race.

Instead Powell will be "lying-in" or "lying-in": a privilege regularly granted to faithful servants of the abbey. This honour is ancient – but apparently unknown to some of Britain's most senior churchmen.

"It happens all the time, regardless of whether the person was a cleaner or a canon emeritus," Church of England spokesman Father William Beaver said yesterday.

"It is a practice which certainly antedates the Reformation [in the 16th century]. I suspect it happens in many other cathedrals."

Powell earned it with a decade's service as a warden at St Margaret's, Westminster, the abbey's sister church. He and his wife were also regular faces at the abbey's 8am Sunday communion.

Fr Beaver said he was "bemused" by reaction from newspapers and clergy to the news.

The Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Rev Wilfred Wood, told BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme that for Powell's body to lie in state would give him a standing some would feel was undeserved.

"The Abbey is a peculiar shrine of a nation's greatness. I see this as a deliberate attempt to accord a man in death a status some of us don't think he merited."

Enoch Powell gave a certificate of respectability to white racist views which otherwise decent people were ashamed to acknowledge.

Lord Coggan, former Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "Anything that would exacerbate the memory of that speech is to be regretted."

Dr Tom Butler, Bishop of Leicester, said the decision to have the body resting in the

abbey overnight could upset ethnic minorities.

These statements led former political associates, including the Conservative MP Patrick Cormack and Ann Winterton, to defend Powell. Sir Patrick accused the clergy of showing "singular lack of Christian charity".

The Association of Black Clergy said: "Each person stands before God and deserves the same level of love."

Fr Beaver said: "I can only assume the bishops and Dr Coggan were under the impression Mr Powell was lying in state when they spoke."

"As an inner-city clergyman for 15 years, I feel the great value of his Birmingham speech was that it galvanised millions into saying it was unacceptable behaviour."

"But his lying-in at the abbey is a very solemn part of Christian leave-taking. Whether or not his family asked for it, they would have been offered it."

Last night a Westminster Abbey spokeswoman said: "It is certainly not the first time this year that this has been done for a member of the abbey community. It happened five or six times last year."

Powell, a stickler for verbal exactitude and correct procedure, would have enjoyed the row.

On Wednesday he will be buried alongside Royal Warwickshire Regiment colleagues at St Mary's collegiate church, Warwick, after funeral services there and at St Margaret's.



Rt Rev Wilfred Wood: Powell does not deserve the honour

Record heat brings out crowds

Warmest February weekend boosts business at resorts

Amelia Gentleman

BITAIN enjoyed the hottest February weekend since records began, with a summer bank holiday atmosphere in coastal resorts.

With temperatures in London higher than in Corfu yesterday, and parts of the country warmer than Portugal, tourists flocked to beaches to bask in the sun.

Mick Small, owner of the Pier Hotel, Great Yarmouth, said the unprecedented temperatures had boosted trade.

"People have been walking about in T-shirts on the beach – it has been fantastic weather. I've been living here for 35 years and I've never seen a February weekend like it. The sea has been unbelievably calm," he said.

The receptionist at the Royal Gatehouse Hotel in Tenby reported a similar phenomenon.

"There's been a summer bank holiday atmosphere all weekend. Children have been paddling in the sea and lots of people have been out on the beach having fun."

The Met Office recorded

Friday's temperatures as the highest ever for a February day in Britain, with 19.6C in Barbourne, Worcestershire. Saturday managed 19.1C, with the heat easing off to 17C yesterday. Most of western Europe has been experiencing similarly warm weather, caused by a slow flow of warm air from North Africa.

A Met Office spokesman said that for three days in a row temperatures had exceeded the maximum recorded for equivalent February days since consolidated records began in 1875.

Martin Rowley, a Met Office national forecaster, said that these unusual temperatures could be tied up with global warming.

"It is always tempting to

link unusual weather patterns to global warming – but it's important to remember that similar exceptionally warm patches of weather did occur at the end of the last century well before it became an issue."

"Some scientists do predict that the climate in the south of Britain will become more like the climate of the south of France, and the succession of warm Februaries we have had over the past few years may suggest that we are already moving in that direction."

But Britain has seen the last of the sun for the time being, with forecasters predicting lower temperatures and chilly north-westerly winds.

Rightwing think-tank applauds Blair on welfare-to-work

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

IN A sign of how far the world has turned since Tony Blair took over as Labour leader, the free-market think-tank, the Adam Smith Institute, finds itself standing four square with the Government on its flagship policy.

In a study published today, the institute – which was the

architect of some of the most radical initiatives of the Thatcher era – gives a ringing endorsement to Labour's welfare-to-work programme, breathlessly describing it as "the most successful public policy initiative of this century".

The study, Making Welfare Work, by Dr Merrill Matthews and Kristin A Becker, examines the success of similar schemes in the United States.

Using official figures to doc-

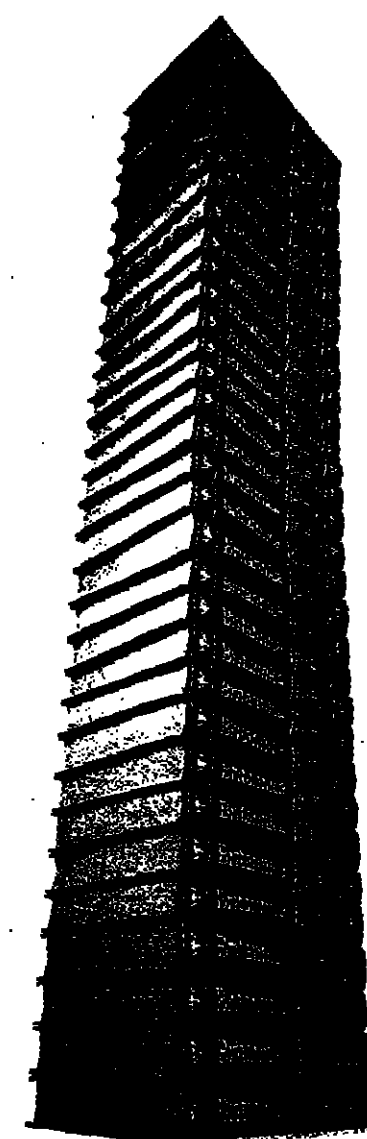
ument their case, they conclude that welfare-to-work programmes reduced welfare caseloads between 1993 and 1997 by 73 per cent in Wyoming, 62 per cent in Idaho and 58 per cent in Wisconsin.

The great majority of those leaving the dole queue found jobs in the private sector.

These gains in employment took place against the backdrop of a booming economy, suggesting that many would have found work anyway. But

the study points out that the welfare-to-work scheme in Wisconsin also achieved impressive results during a slowdown between 1990 and 1993.

The president of the Adam Smith Institute, Madsen Pirie, said: "This will be music to New Labour's ears. It shows that the central plank of their welfare state reform is a sound one which has been proved successful in practice."



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Acacia Drive is not what it was. At the top end of the road, where the view down the valley is longest, an enormous fence has been erected. There are gates, but they are locked shut. And beyond them stands an even less friendly addition to the neighbourhood: Acacia Drive has a guard hut.

Andy Beckett on the green belt front line

G2 cover story

4 BRITAIN

The Guardian Monday February 16 1998

US court case reveals cigarette makers have known of cancer link for 40 years, and 20 years ago began planning to counter social backlash

Tobacco firms' secrets smoked out

Sarah Bosley

THE tobacco industry was told by scientists working for it nearly 40 years ago that cigarettes could cause cancer, and 20 years ago was considering alternative ways to make money out of people's addiction to nicotine if smoking became socially unacceptable.

These damning revelations are contained in documents produced in court in Minnesota during the current litigation against US tobacco manufacturers in which health-care providers are suing for the costs of treating people whose disease and sometimes death was smoking-related.

In what is thought to be the earliest warning from within the industry, British scientists told manufacturers in 1958 of the link between smoking and lung cancer.

In a document put together after a month-long tour of medical research establishments in the US, H R Bentley, D G I Felton and W W Reid, who worked for British American Tobacco in Britain, stated that almost every sci-

entist they met believed the two were connected. "With one exception, the individuals whom we met believed that smoking causes lung cancer." By the end of the 1970s, the tobacco companies had worked out that nicotine was the addictive, but not the most harmful, element in cigarettes. What they needed, said staff at their establishment in Southampton, was a socially acceptable product containing nicotine, which would keep the customers hooked. "We have to satisfy the in-

dividual who is either about to give up or has done so... We are searching explicitly for a socially acceptable addictive product involving: □ A pattern of repeat consumption; □ A product which is likely to involve repeated handling; □ The essential constituent is most likely to be nicotine or a 'direct substitute' for it; □ The product must be non-ignitable (to eliminate inhalation of combustion products and passive smoking). In fact, some of the BAT brains had in March 1976 produced a paper titled The

product in the early 80s. It said: "In the past 20 years there have been several forecasts of the demise of the cigarette." It states that there had been suggestions they could be supplanted by nicotine chewing gum or marijuana. But, generally, the smoker had been remarkably resistant to such ideas. Chewing tobacco, snuff and nicotine-containing chewing gum were all "potential rivals if cigarette smoking becomes socially undesirable". It goes on: "Sweets or confectioneries containing nicot-

ine carry the danger of overdose - nicotine is an acute poison." But it reflects that there must be something better than chewing gum as "an oral method of administering a five-minute dose of nicotine". The possible legalisation of cannabis gave the boffins some ideas. The paper goes on: "One avenue for exploitation would be the augmentation of cigarettes with near-subliminal levels of the drug." It concludes that the greatest threat to cigarettes lay probably "not in further evidence of a direct link between

smoking and disease, but the increasing tendency to portray smoking as a socially undesirable habit." Pressure from governments for low-nicotine cigarettes would end in less "satisfaction" for consumers. "Then surely smokers will question more readily why they are indulging in an expensive habit." BAT's staff were on the ball. An article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* last September observed that the tobacco manufacturers and the drug companies were now pursuing the same customers -

nicotine addicts. It was clear, it said, that "current regulatory policy favors the tobacco companies, which encounter little regulation to speak of and can introduce new, nicotine maintenance products quickly and easily". Amanda Sandford, of the anti-smoking group, ASH, said the documents emerging from Minnesota were a revelation. Although Mississippi and Florida had sued tobacco manufacturers for health costs, their cases had been settled out of court. Lawyers in Minnesota had refused to do that.

supporters of Salman Rushdie yesterday rejected an Iranian claim that he is considering moving to the United States, as new threats from Tehran dashed hopes that its line on the author had softened. Ayatollah Hassan Sane'i, head of the religious foundation which last year raised its reward for killing the writer to \$2.5 million (about £1.5 million), said it might be raised again, "depending on the date on which the sentence is carried out". He suggested that if Mr Rushdie, as reported in Tehran, went to the US, the move "would strengthen the motive of zealous Muslims to carry out the sentence, because Muslims hate the US". Mr Rushdie should know that "the sky is the same colour wherever he goes".

Iran makes new threat against Rushdie

David Hirst in Tehran and Stuart Miller

SUPPORTERS of Salman Rushdie yesterday rejected an Iranian claim that he is considering moving to the United States, as new threats from Tehran dashed hopes that its line on the author had softened.

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The author's supporters in Britain said yesterday it was highly unlikely he was considering such a move. "I think it was just part of a litany of abuse from Tehran which allows them to attack the Grand Satans of America and the Little Rushdies," said Carmel Bedford, of the International Rushdie Committee.

With Iran's election of a Marxist president, Ahmad Khatami, hopes had been growing that Iran would soften its line.

But the uncompromising statements commemorating Ayatollah Khomeini's decree in February 1989 show that, if anything, it has hardened. Mr Khatami has been silent on the issue since he took office. Well-informed Iranians say that his embarrassment is acute, but that he is in no position to challenge his hard-line rivals, headed by the

spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. More significant than the routine intransigence of the hardliners is the apparently tougher line adopted by the Foreign Ministry, a stronghold of moderation, which yesterday said that since the fatwa "represented the view of a high-ranking religious dignitary [Ayatollah Khomeini] it was 'irrevocable'".

The ministry also criticised the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, for his "failure to understand the significance of fatwas and Islamic edicts". In the past, the ministry would re-affirm the validity of the fatwa, but always added an assurance that the Iranian government would itself do nothing to carry it out.

Seeking to corral Mr Khatami, Ayatollah Sane'i claimed that the new president had in no way retreated from his previous stand of support for the fatwa. "He will surely deal with the issue more firmly than before. Nothing else could be expected from a descendant of God's Prophet" - which Mr Khatami is.

Ayatollah Naeq Nuri, the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, drew a contrast between Mr Rushdie and Roger Garaudy, the French intellectual on trial for casting doubt on the authenticity of the Holocaust. Ayatollah Nuri has denounced "the contradictory attitude" of "self-styled defenders of human rights" who condemn Mr Garaudy for attacking Israel, but uphold Mr Rushdie for his blasphemy against Islam.

Despite this, Rushdie campaigners remain optimistic. On Saturday, the author met Tony Blair and later this week will meet Mr Cook. Previously, his only contact with the Government had been through the Foreign Office minister, Derek Fatchett.

Dome's mother and child to outstrip Statue of Liberty

Clare Longrigg

THE Millennium Dome, whose contents are shrouded in mystery, may become a peacock in the most reviled of modern figures: the single mother.

Plans for the exhibition are said to centre around a sculpture of a naked woman and child, bigger than the Statue of Liberty.

The fibreglass woman will be sitting down as her child plays with his toys. According to a report in a Sunday newspaper, the toys could present an opening for corporate sponsorship.

The woman's body will be 170ft high and 320ft long, containing walk-in exhibitions on health and the body.

The original idea was to have a robot with no sex organs, but the design company HPI-INC is said to have made an impassioned plea for a female Britannia to rival the US Statue of Liberty and the French Marianne.

A spokesman for the New Millennium Experience dis-

missed the announcement of the mother and child sculpture as speculation, and claimed no decision had been reached.

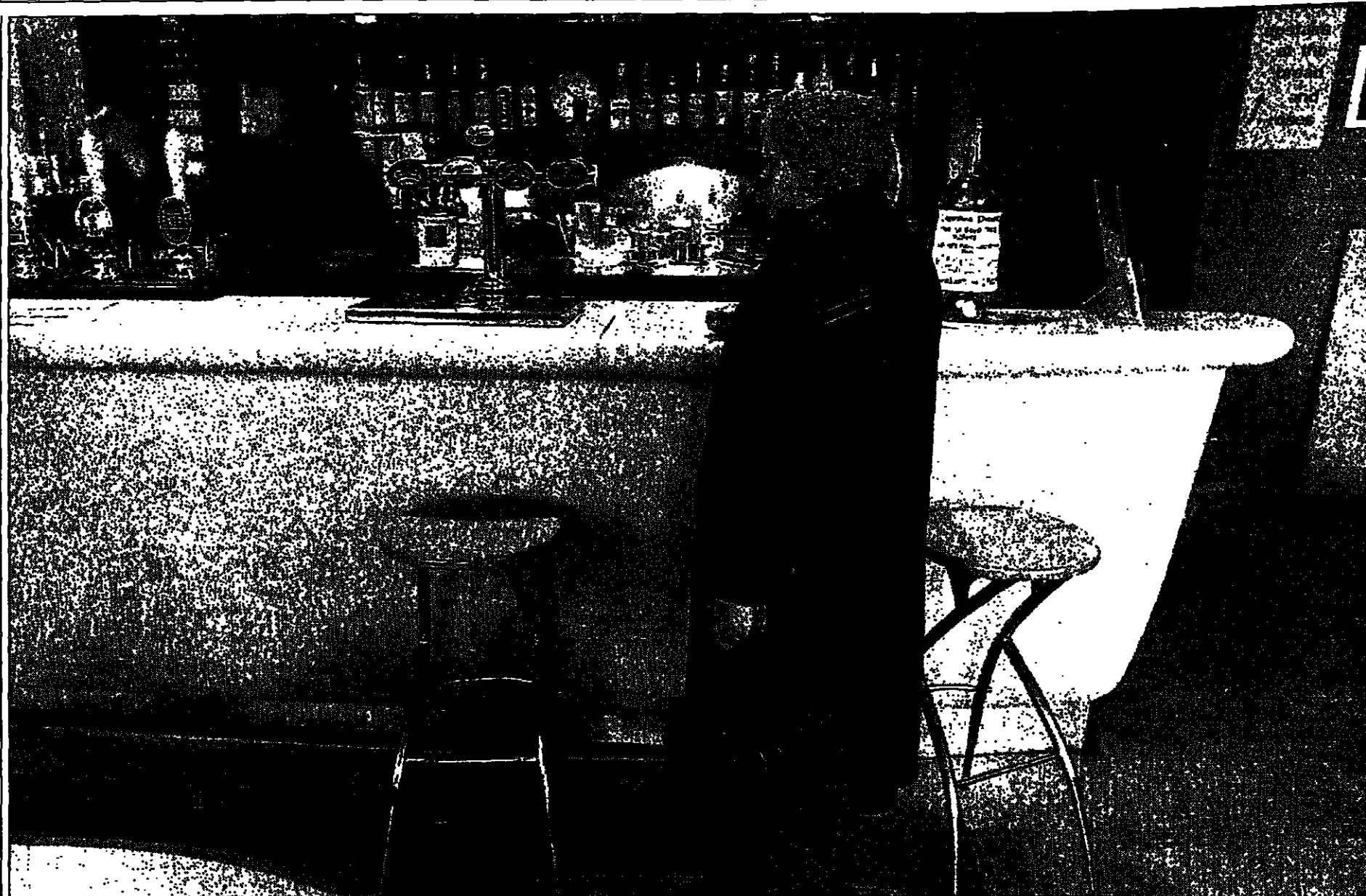
"There has been a debate about the body, whether it should be male or female. There will definitely be a large-scale statue, bigger than the Statue of Liberty, which will illustrate issues around health, medicine and the body."

The child is part of the plans still under discussion by the creative review group, which, according to the spokesman, "is testing the intellectual coherence of what is being proposed".

The group might have a struggle with the intellectual coherence of using an hermaphrodite to demonstrate how the human body works.

The body will be a silver coloured surface to avoid questions of skin colour. The facial features will indicate no particular race.

The decision will be revealed in a presentation of the dome's contents on February 24.



Award winner... a customer at the Bread and Roses in Clapham, south London, owned by the Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Union Council

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODWIN

Drinking class finds ciabatta bread a bit hard to swallow

Maew Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

THE days of beer and sandwiches for the brothers are back. Or rather a nice glass of chardonnay, and bouillon with almond and olive tapenade served on ciabatta bread, at the award-winning pub owned by the Workers' Beer Company, which in turn is owned by the Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Union Council.

The Bread and Roses in Clapham, south London, has scooped an award in today's *Camra/English Heritage* pub design competition results.

The manager, Judy Gasser, said sadly: "We get rather a lot of media types actually. We don't get as many working men as we'd like. It's rather a disappointment to us."

The judges described it as "a pub with attitude which is also relaxed and friendly. No platitudes, no false, boring repetition, just good

confident modern design." Ms Gasser, a Labour Party activist ("old Labour, I think") puts their collarless-shirted clientele down to the price of the pint. Worker's Ale is £1.85, cheaper than Islington but considerably dearer than the next pub down the road.

"If you pay decent wages you've got to be dearer - we pay £5.15 an hour."

Bread and Roses was a 150-year-old corner bar called the Bowyer Arms, which acquired a spectacular reputation in its latter days. Regularly the bar staff spot old customers coming back. They see the eyes widen as they take in the wine list on the blackboard - "ask for our champagne and pudding wine list" - the gilt framed photograph of Nelson Mandela, and the huge banner above the bar quoting the 1912 striking women textile workers: "Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes; hearts starve as

well as bodies, give us bread but give us roses!" The old legs tend to stay for one drink and vanish.

Bread and Roses is not yet the Granita of south London. They housed the party when the former party secretary, Larry Whitty, became a lord, and they've had that Bill Morris in - he took some stick over the TUC's dealings with the Liverpool dockers' strike. However, they have yet to see Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson sharing a Nachos salad with mixed leaves, tortilla chips, feta cheese, sweetcorn salsa, beans and gaucamole at £4.95.

Bread and Roses, designed by Andrew Wong and the building co-operative, ARC, won the prize for best refurbishment. The other major prize-winner, for a building converted into a pub, was won by Fraser's Bar in Edinburgh's new town, which was the offices of the Royal Bank until 1992.

The chairman of the

judges, Steven Parissien, commented that 1997 was the year of the bank, with more and more high street giants getting rid of their Victorian palaces of money, and dozens of them being converted into pubs.

No award was made for conservation. Instead, the judges said that almost all the £10 million spent on historic pubs last year was

wasted, while cherished buildings like the 1807 Holly Bush in Hampstead, and the turn-of-the-century Posada in Wolverhampton, were under threat of insensitive "improvement".

In the 10 years of the competition, the award for a brand new pub has only been presented once. To nobody's surprise no award was made this year.

Move to halt trade in Diana tat

Stuart Miller

PRESSURE intensified yesterday for the Diana, Princess of Wales, memorabilia industry to exercise restraint, after Tony Blair condemned the "lucky" exploitation of her memory.

After a week of sensational claims, the Prime Minister led criticism of the "Diana death industry".

Downing Street, Buckingham Palace and trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Fund have become concerned both by lurid speculation on the circumstances of her death and exploitation of her memory by souvenir manufacturers.

At odds with media promises last September of a more responsible attitude, the *Times* last week serialised a book claiming the princess might have survived the car crash in Paris if she had been taken to hospital quicker.

That was overshadowed when the *Mirror* ran interviews with Mohamed Al Fayed, whose son, Dodi, also died in the crash, in which he said he was 99 per cent certain it was no accident.

Souvenir industry offerings

□ The plates: for £19.95, collectors could get a plate from Franklin Mint to "help keep her spirit alive" or a Diana, Queen of Hearts, 22-carat gold banding, porcelain plate.

□ The dolls: two American companies marketed two 18in porcelain Diana dolls, with designer gowns. One comes with a replica of an off-the-shoulder outfit she wore to dance with John Travolta. Cost: £85. A British toy store chain was criticised for continuing to stock a £5.99 "Dressing Princess Diana" cut-out.

□ T-shirts: The most popular souvenir. Chosen from slogans such as "England's Rose", "Princess of the People", "Queen of Hearts" and "Born a Princess. Died a Saint" next to blurred images of Diana. Prices from around £10. Keyrings, mugs and ashtrays in similar style also available.

phernalia of the souvenir market." He denied suggestions that the intervention was a coded attack on Mr Al Fayed.

John Major, who is acting as guardian of the interests of princes William and Harry, also voiced his concern over "shoddy publicity".

But there is a recognition that little can be done to prevent books and films.

Yesterday, a spokeswoman for Live TV shrugged off criticism of *The People's Princess: A Tribute*, a film it is making about the relationship between Diana and Dodi. "The title of the film speaks for itself. It is a tribute and should be taken as such."

There is more concern over the Diana souvenir industry, estimated to be worth £100 million worldwide. Downing Street has complained, for example, of an ashtray on sale in London. There is also an Internet game which allows players to drive a Mercedes through a tunnel while pursued by paparazzi on motorbikes.

Michael Fabricant, a Tory member of the Commons culture, media and sport select committee, said: "If there is such a game, it's not just tacky as the Prime Minister said, it's beyond the bounds of good taste."

Lawyers for the memorial fund are finalising a copyrighting arrangement to pursue manufacturers of unauthorised memorabilia. Official souvenirs will be identified by a trademark.

London comment, page 6

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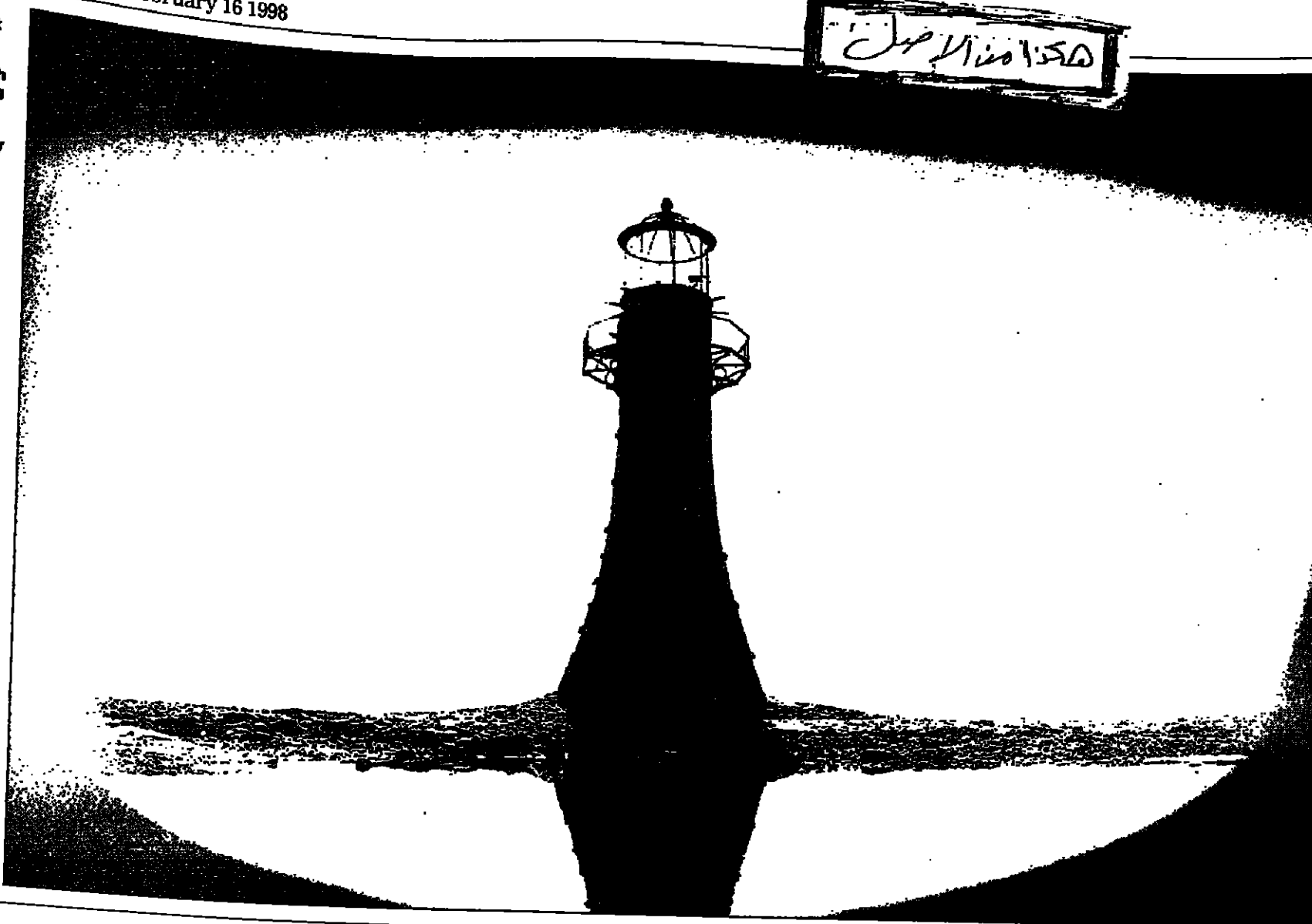
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"I've got to stop being a little girl. And it's incredible what that shift means. It means getting out of victim mode, it means I am a woman."
Charlotte Coleman's growing pains

G2 page 4

A National
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shows you're
a successful
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well-trained
people with
proven benefits
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bottom line

The lighthouse at Whitford Point near Llanelli which is undergoing renovation. The work will be finished by the year 2000. PHOTOGRAPH: PHILLIP REES



Top pay at crisis opera house

Dan Galsister
Arts Correspondent

SALARY levels at the crisis-torn Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, were far higher than at similar arts institutions in the financial year leading up to its closure for redevelopment.

Thirty-three people received salaries of between £50,000 and £100,000, according to its own financial documents, while at the South Bank Centre there were just three people in the same salary band.

Three people at the ROH were earning more than £100,000. In the previous financial year there were four on that salary scale.

In the same year the ROH was building up a deficit that reached £12 million before a rescue package was put together to stave off insolvency. It aims to reduce the deficit to £5 million over the next 18 months.

The salary levels are higher than any of the nation's other big arts institutions. With an annual subsidy of £15 million for its two companies, the ROH receives a higher subsidy from the Arts Council than any other arts institution. Additionally, it has received a lottery grant of £78.5 million towards its redevelopment.

At the neighbouring English National Opera, which could be merged with the ROH under the review being conducted by Sir Richard Eyre, nobody earns over £100,000, and just four earn more than £50,000.

At the Royal National Theatre, where Sir Richard was until recently director, his successor Trevor Nunn is the only person to receive more than £100,000. Five earn between £50,000 and £100,000.

At the British Film Institute, an organisation which has also had recent personnel

and financial troubles, there are no staff earning more than £100,000. Seven, including the director, earn more than £50,000.

After the ROH, the Royal Shakespeare Company has the most bloated wage bill, but even there just one person earns more than £100,000, and nine earn more than £50,000.

Although the identities of the ROH's top earners are not divulged, it is likely that the chief executive, Mary Allen, is one of them. She left her £63,000 a year job as secretary general of the Arts Council last year to join the ROH. The payments for 1996/97 include more than £100,000 to Jeremy Issacs, the former general director, who left in September 1996.

An ROH spokeswoman said it had to pay top salaries to attract top musical figures. Also, the ROH had two com-

panies, the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet.

But it is the cluster of salaries between £50,000 and £80,000 that will worry observers concerned with instituting sound management techniques. It will also be a cause for concern to Sir Colin Southgate, the new chairman.

Since closure, and the associated loss of 320 jobs through redundancies, the homeless ROH has reduced its top-heavy salary levels.

There are now only seven people being paid between £50,000 and £100,000. Both Sir Colin and Sir Richard, who has voiced surprise that pay is so much higher than at the National Theatre, will be keen to ensure that it does not return to former levels when the house reopens next year.

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THE TIMES

Stand out from the crowd with a National Training Award.

School warning on 'force guide'

John Carvel
Education Editor

TEACHERS were told last night to ignore guidelines allowing them to use "reasonable force" to restrain violent or disobedient pupils.

Ministers were preparing to issue legal advice that staff could respond to classroom crises with appropriate physical intervention. This could include "holding, pushing, pulling, leading a pupil by the arm, or shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of his or her back".

But Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, said the official advice could lead his members to take unnecessary risks.

"The danger is that teachers will feel encouraged by this guidance to intervene in dangerous situations. That is when they are at their greatest risk of assault." Instead of intervening, teachers should lead his members to take unnecessary risks.

The guidelines — due for publication today — were prepared by a team at the Department for Education and Employment to combat a misperception that the Children Act outlawed all forms of physical contact with pupils.

Ministers thought they could help teachers by distinguishing between improper contact and legitimate measures to restrain children who disrupt lessons, risk injuring others or run in corridors in a way that might cause an accident.

The leaked draft said: "It is unlawful for a teacher to physically punish a pupil, regardless of the seriousness

of the pupil's misbehaviour, or the degree of provocation. Smacking, slapping, punching, or kicking, are not acceptable methods of restraint. Nor is any form of physical contact that is deliberately intended to cause pain or injury, or humiliate a pupil."

Neckholds, armlocks, tripping or pulling a pupil by the hair will be specifically outlawed and teachers will be told never to give the impression of losing their temper.

But reasonable force could be used to prevent pupils committing a criminal offence, causing injury, damaging property, persistently disrupting lessons, or causing a serious nuisance outside the classroom. This might include intervening physically to separate pupils, or block a child's path.

Mr de Gruchy said teachers were not facing serious legal risks when they took appropriate disciplinary measures. "There are some instances in which teachers have found themselves facing charges. But in most cases, if it gets to court, the teachers have won."

Under the new guidelines teachers might feel "encouraged to intervene in situations where it would be very foolish for them to do so. Too many teachers already have suffered injury in the course of doing their job. There will be a great many more if they feel free to intervene as a result of this guidance."

"Our advice is to recognise the signs of trouble at an earlier stage, and call on whatever assistance may be needed from colleagues, or — if necessary — the police."

Senior government sources said the guidelines would help teachers to understand their legal rights.

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Iraq crisis: decision time approaches

Hunt for the hidden assets



Volunteers learn how to use AK-47 assault rifles at a training centre in Baghdad yesterday

The risks

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

IF AIR strikes are launched against Iraq this week they could cause even more "collateral damage" — military jargon for civilian casualties — than in the 1991 Gulf war.

United States and British air force planners blame the risk on the nature of the proposed targets and the efforts of President Saddam Hussein's regime to blur the distinction between military and civilian sites.

When Washington first warned Baghdad that it's refusal to comply with United Nations weapons inspectors would lead to military action, it was widely assumed that the primary targets would be the chemical and biological weapons President Saddam is believed to have concealed — VX nerve gas and anthrax spores.

But the UN has admitted that its inspectors do not know how many useable weapons, if any, remain, and where they may be hidden. Even the US defence secretary, William Cohen, whose job it is to make the bombing threat credible, has belatedly acknowledged that air strikes would "probably not" eliminate these weapons.

Although a botched strike on such sites could release a cloud of nerve gas in a populated area or disperse biological agents without incinerating them, causing widespread casualties, bombs are likely to be directed at a wide range of sites known to be implicated in gas or germ warfare. But in this area, even more

than with the nuclear sites on which the earlier strikes were focused, military activity can be camouflaged by legitimate civilian activity.

A chemical works turning out fertilisers or insecticides may contain a secret nerve gas plant. A medical institute may have been forced to set aside a laboratory to produce botulin toxins.

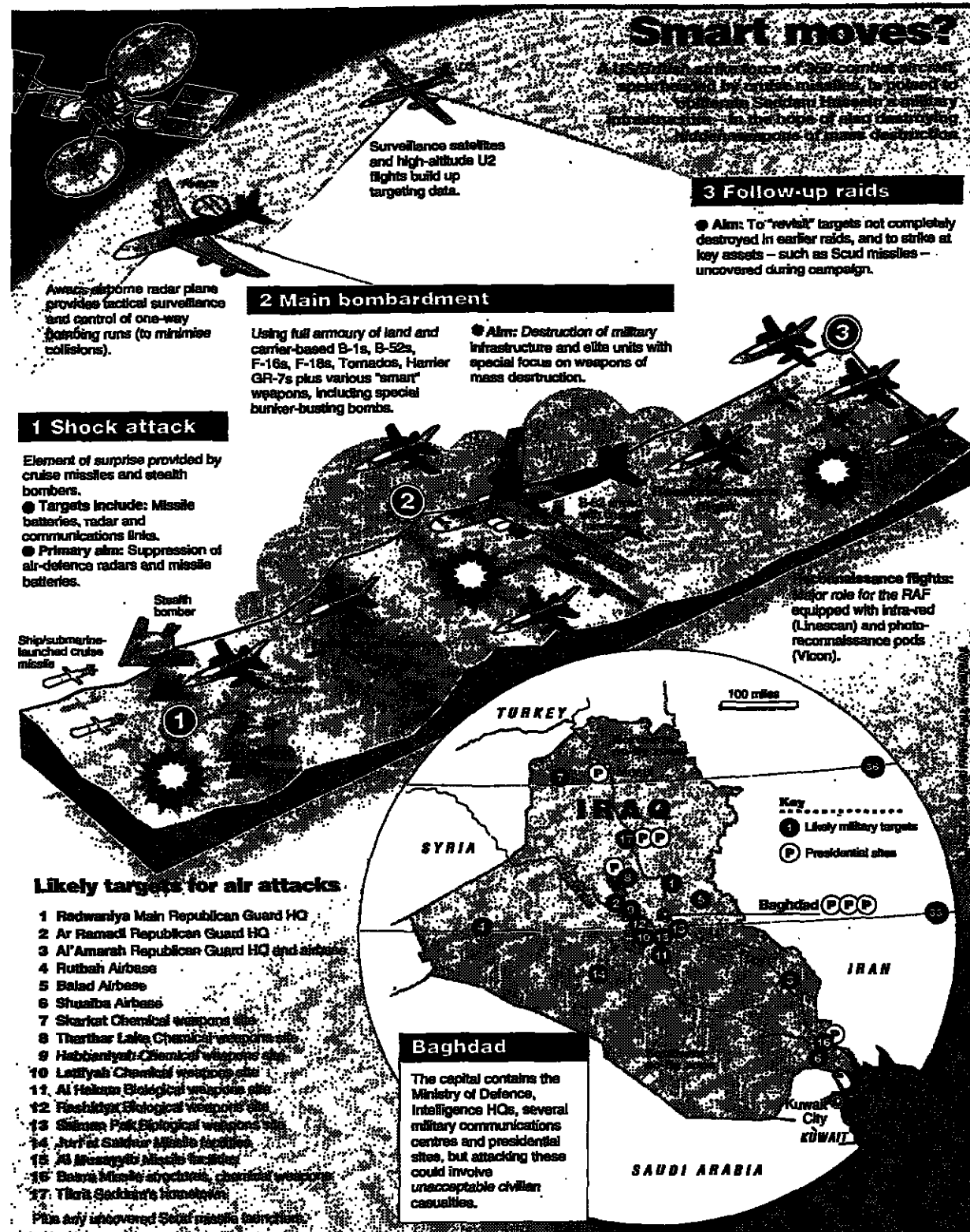
One way round this may be to bomb at night, when only the watchman is likely to be incinerated. But as the disaster at Amirya showed seven years ago, when an active military bunker in Baghdad also turned out to contain an air-raid shelter in which more than 400 civilians died, even the most careful surveillance can be misleading.

The secondary aim of bombing is to "undermine" President Saddam's military regime. Pentagon sources suggest this means raids on his Republican Guard barracks and equipment, and hitting air defence installations hard so they cannot be rebuilt quickly — as they were last time.

Another way frequently used in Washington and Whitehall to describe the threatened strikes is "substantial", which translates as more or less continuous raids, interspersed with reconnaissance flights, lasting several days.

The early waves would concentrate on destroying air defence radars, missile batteries and command links, making Iraqi airspace safer for the main bombing force.

The other crucial objective, though unspoken, is to kill President Saddam. This was attempted many times in 1991 and would be tried again if surveillance or intelligence could find his hiding place. The same would apply to



any hidden Scud missiles of the kind that might launch chemical or biological attacks on Tel Aviv. Nor quite all those bought from the Soviet Union have been accounted for, and others are believed to have been manufactured in Iraq.

Finally, the US air force will want to try out the latest generation of "smart" weapons: the Block 3 Tomahawk cruise missiles guided by navigational satellites, and the bunker-busting bombs. It could also be an important test for the Advanced Unitary Penetrator, designed to pass through lift of concrete, and

the Hard Target Smart Fuse weapon, which can count its way through a multi-floored building before detonating. British forces in the Gulf have not yet been inoculated against diseases carried by biological weapons or ordered to take anti-nerve gas tablets.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that such anti-dotes were available in the region. The question of their use is extremely sensitive as many veterans of the 1991 campaign attribute subsequent illnesses, collectively known as "Gulf war syndrome", in part to the inoculations they received.

Gone awol

Joanna Coles in New York

AIR strikes on Iraq would not destroy Saddam Hussein's arsenal because hundreds of Scud missiles and chemical weapons have been smuggled out of the country into Sudan.

Yemen and Algeria, according to a leaked United States government report. The report says Iraq has built chemical weapons plants in Sudan, discreetly shipped nuclear materials to Algeria and dispatched a dozen top scientists to Libya to develop biological weapons using anthrax.

According to the US News and World Report, which yesterday published a leaked report compiled by the House of Representatives Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, Iraq began transferring chemical weapons and 400 Scud missiles to Yemen and Sudan in the summer of 1991.

In 1992 it sent nuclear materials, including 27.5lb of highly enriched uranium-235, to Sudan in a lorry that travelled through Jordan marked office furniture. Most of the materials were shipped to the Ain Ouserra reactor in Algeria.

The report, based on Israeli and German intelligence, also says that in 1995 Iraq and Sudan jointly built a mustard-gas weapons plant near Wau in south-west Sudan.

In the past two years the two countries have completed chemical weapons plants near Khartoum.

Last month 12 Iraqi scientists involved in biological weapons research arrived in Libya to help the Libyans develop a biological warfare complex under the auspices of a medical factory. The complex is thought to be producing bombs filled with botulin and anthrax.

White house officials had no comment on the report.



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Saddam ducks and dives to survive expected attack

Iraq's leader is behaving like a man on the run, writes Youssef Ibrahim in Amman

Moving target

THESE days the man who has led Iraq since 1968 — through two wars, years of plenty and another car himself, does not sleep in the same place two nights in a row, according to former associates.

He sometimes sends out convoys of cars as decoys while he takes the wheel of another car himself, dressed in Bedouin garb and in the company of a bodyguard or two from his security unit. They arrive at the door of ordinary house finds to announce: "You have a guest tonight."

In anticipation of an American air attack, Saddam Hussein has reverted to the surreptitious behaviour he adopted during the Gulf war to evade attempts to make him a target.

The former associates — senior officials who worked with him, Arab cabinet

ministers who have recently visited him and Arab intelligence officers — agreed in interviews last week that, as Iraq prepares for a military strike by the United States and its allies, the country's supreme goal is to ensure that the president survives.

Some Arab officials say his survival seems to be a near certainty unless there is a secret plan to land troops to find and kill him.

"I saw what happened during the strikes of 1990 and 1991," a former senior Iraqi official said.

"You couldn't find Saddam. No one knew where he was. Not the members of the Revolutionary Council, not the cabinet ministers. Only a handful of people did, and they were not accessible."

"He spent nights among people in the most ordinary neighbourhoods. You never knew until there was a knock on the door with someone announcing a

special guest. The following morning he was gone as fast as he came. He spent nights in tents in the desert, in farms."

President Saddam is doing now as he did then. A senior Arab official who has met him in the past fortnight said the security precautions surrounding him had reached "paranoid" proportions.

He said a letter he was to have delivered in person to President Saddam was taken by an assistant who had been asked to photocopy it. Others said that he had long had a system to avoid touching any envelope, on the off-chance that it might be smeared with poison.

The official said those immediately around the president were "forbidden under pain of death" to disclose his whereabouts, even to close associates like the deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, or his relatives.

Those who wish to see him must send in their request, and the president decides if and where a meeting may take place. — *New York Times*

News in brief

Clerides re-elected Cypriot president

GLAUCOS CLERIDES was re-elected president of Cyprus with 50.8 per cent of the vote yesterday, in a narrow victory over the independent challenger George Iakovou in the run-off election. The electorate of about 406,000 people included thousands of students specially flown in from Britain and Greece. Mr Iakovou, a former foreign minister who was backed by the communists and hardline nationalists, narrowly beat the conservative Mr Clerides in the first round last week. — *Helena Smith, Nicosia*

De Klerk to divorce wife

THE former South African president F. W. de Klerk said he was divorcing his wife after the disclosure that he had been having an affair. Mr De Klerk, aged 61, who shared the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize with President Nelson Mandela for his role in ending apartheid, told South African newspapers that his 39-year marriage was over. Newspaper reports identified the other woman as Eliza Georgiades, wife of a family friend with whom Mr De Klerk and his wife Marlike shared frequent holidays in London and the Greek Islands. — *Reuters, Johannesburg*

Prince throws down gauntlet

A YEAR after he was toppled in a coup and fled into exile, Prince Norodom Ranariddh registered his FUNCINPEC party yesterday for the Cambodian elections scheduled for July. His signature appeared at the bottom of registration forms accepted by the interior ministry, the prince's personal representative in Phnom Penh, Lu Layseng, said. Meanwhile a meeting of the Association of South-east Asian Nations in the Philippines declared support for a proposal that Cambodia should quickly try, convict and then pardon the ousted co-prime minister so that he could freely participate in the elections. — *AP, Phnom Penh*

Clinic blast suspect is named

AT THE end of a two-week manhunt, federal investigators yesterday named a suspect wanted in connection with the bombing last month of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, which killed one man and seriously injured a woman. The officers said they wanted to charge Eric Rudolph, a 31-year-old former soldier from North Carolina, with using an explosive device with intent to kill or maim. — *Joanna Coles, New York*

Help for Cameroon victims

FRANCE was due to send 6 tonnes of burn medications to Cameroon as emergency aid last night after two tanker trains exploded at the weekend killing 120 people. Four doctors and two nurses were due to fly with the aid to the capital Yaounde, where more than 150 people were critically burned when flames swept from the tanker trains which had collided hours earlier. Witnesses said the explosion was caused by a cigarette dropped by someone in the crowd. — *Reuters, Paris*

Attacks kill 35 in Algeria

THIRTY-FIVE people were killed in attacks by Muslim rebels at the weekend as the military launched an offensive against the rebels on the outskirts of Algiers, local officials and media said yesterday. State radio, quoting a statement by the security forces, said 11 civilians were killed at Sidi Amer in M'sila province. Earlier 17 people, including some members of a pro-government militia, had their throats slit and five were wounded in the Tamerna area in the south-west region of Saida, the security force statement said. Troops were said to have killed three rebels. Other media reports said four civilians had their throats cut on Saturday night when they were caught at a roadblock in the Ain el Melh area in Medea province, and three civilians died at a roadblock between Medea and the neighbouring Ain Defla region. — *Reuters, Paris*

Cook's tour of Montserrat

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, toured volcano-ravaged Montserrat at the weekend, flying over stretches of ash-coated landscape and the rubble of the island's abandoned capital. Mr Cook, said by his aides to be the first foreign secretary to visit Montserrat, flew by helicopter over the island's southern tip where volcanic flows of super-heated gas, ash and rock have destroyed homes and businesses. He rejected criticism that he was only spending six hours there. "It's a full day's trip. I added a day to my visit to the Caribbean...

Indonesian riots spread and worsen

John Aglionby
in Cirebon, West Java

FIVE people were killed, dozens injured and hundreds arrested at the weekend as Indonesian unrest at soaring prices exploded in violence.

Two rioters were shot dead by security forces in the central Java town of Brebes for allegedly threatening troops with metal bars and axes; two more people died in rioting on the quiet tourist island of Lombok on Saturday, and the fifth victim was trampled to death by a rampaging mob in the west Java town of Losari late on Friday night.

The unrest, which began three weeks ago, has rapidly developed into widespread rioting, looting and violence. In the past three days rioting has broken out in more than 20 towns. Much of the violence is aimed at shopkeepers of Chinese descent.

In Kadipaten, near Cirebon, hundreds of people burnt, ransacked and looted more than a dozen shops yesterday. Churches and temples used by Chinese were attacked; central Java were attacked for the first time at the weekend. Many people painted "Muslim family" on the facades of their properties in an attempt to save them from being damaged.

"My family and I escaped death by a whisker," said a grocer in Losari who was too scared to give his name. "We fled from the back of the shop as we heard the mob ripping down the grilles on the front windows. We have lost all our

possessions and I am sure we would have lost our lives had we not made a run for it."

He said he sold basic foodstuffs at the same prices as his non-Chinese neighbours but that their premises remained untouched.

"It's an ethnic thing. The current crisis is the worst since President Suharto came to power [32 years ago] but he cannot be blamed so we, the traditional enemy, are made the scapegoat."

The Chinese make up about 5 per cent of the population but control 70 per cent of the nation's wealth. Many indigenous Indonesians believe the Chinese have exploited the massive debt grown rich on presidential patronage.

Indonesia's economy began to collapse last July but most people only began to feel the effects when prices shot up last month in the wake of the meltdown of the currency and rising unemployment. Unrest has since been reported in almost half of the 27 provinces.

Sarwono, a pedicab driver, who admits he took part in rioting last week, said: "In fact we all blame the government, but it is impossible to say so. We are only little people and if we criticise the authorities we will be arrested and charged with subversion."

International bankers in Jakarta said yesterday that the crisis was likely to continue for months, after President Suharto confirmed on Saturday his decision to ignore international opinion and peg the rupiah to the dollar in an attempt to end the economic turmoil.

Lewinsky's lovesick e-mails

Joanna Coles in New York

MONICA Lewinsky, the former White House intern alleged to have had an affair with the president, sent a series of e-mails to her Pentagon colleague Linda Tripp complaining that Mr Clinton failed to call her on St Valentine's Day last year. She also told Ms Tripp that she longed for him to tell her he loved her and suggest they run away together.

The office correspondence, extracts of which are published in the latest edition of Newsweek, was subpoenaed

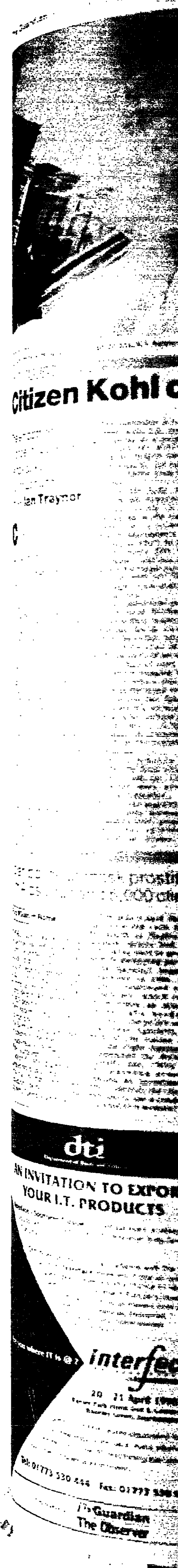
last week by the independent counsel investigating the alleged affair, Kenneth Starr. In the first message, sent February 13 1997, Ms Lewinsky outlines her coming trip to London: "I will also be checking my messages in the hopes that The Creep will call and say 'Thank you for my love note. I love you. Will you run away with me?' What do you think the likelihood of that happening is?"

Back from London a week later, she sent Ms Tripp another e-mail. It read: "Hi. I missed you!!!! I hope you enjoyed your few days of sanity with me gone

because I'm back and NOT in good spirits. 1) I have a small present for you. Everything was SOOOO expensive so I'm sorry it's small. 2) Nice that Big Creep [her name for Bill Clinton] didn't even try to call me on V-Day and he didn't know for sure that I was going to London. 3) He could have called me last night and didn't. He was out of town. 4) Finally the Babbs [her name for Hillary Clinton] went away and it was the same night he was out of town. F... me!!! HHHHHHEEE-EEEELLLLPPPPP! Bye msl."

Two weeks later Ms Lewinsky sent another message telling Ms Tripp that Betty Currie, the president's secretary, would leave Monica's gifts for Mr Clinton under his Oval Office desk. "F... face should (if bett is nice) get my tie today. I sure hope he likes it. Make me feel better and tell me it's really pretty, ok? msl."

A retired secret service officer, Lewis Fox, is expected to testify to the grand jury tomorrow that, contrary to Mr Clinton's account of their relationship, he did spend time with Monica alone at the White House.





Masked revellers parade through St Mark's Square yesterday to mark the beginning of Venice's annual carnival, the best-known in Italy

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHELE GREGOLINI

French hunters bay for blood

Jon Henley in Paris

LED BY a pack of bay-hunting hounds and a solitary, rather confused wild boar, 150,000 angry men marched through Paris this weekend to defend the ancient French pastime of massacring migrating birds. "This is a right citizens' fight for and won in the 1789 revolution. We are not about to surrender it to bureaucrats in Brussels who know nothing," declared Pierre Dailant, head of the National Union of Hunters' Federations, which organised the biggest demonstration Paris has seen for almost 10 years. Hunting horns blaring, the four-mile procession wound its way from the Eiffel Tower in western Paris to the Place d'Italie in the east, viscount in knickerbockers mingling with farmers in camouflage jackets. France's 1.5 million hunters are up in arms at a European Union directive to shorten the open season on migrating birds, an EU programme to boost protected wildlife areas, and French government plans to use EU laws to restrict their access to private land. An effigy of Dominique Voynet, the no-nonsense Green environment minister whom the hunting lobby has

declared a "non-protected species", hung from a gibbet. Placards read: "Dominique, get back to your housework and leave us alone", and "Voynet, you're screwed, the hunters are on the move". French governments have failed to implement the 1979 EU directive designed to protect migrating ducks, geese and other birds during breeding and while their young are too small to fly. It came into force, if partially, this year, halting the season a month early on January 31. The free-for-all, which turns swaths of rural France into no-go areas for ramblers will resume in September — two months later than usual. The march was officially apolitical, but deputies from hunting areas took part, as did representatives of the Hunting, Fishing, Nature and Tradition party, which hopes to win up to 15 per cent of the rural vote in next month's regional elections. Although surveys show 36 per cent of the French are in favour of hunting and 60 per cent actively oppose it, the marchers were virulent. "It's time France realised that the environment belongs to those of us who live in it, not to people like her who sit in offices all day," said Marcel Rougeasse, a Toulouse mechanic.

Citizen Kohl comes to test London's euro-philia

The embattled chancellor believes he has allies in the City of London, writes Ian Traynor

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl of Germany never tires of saying that Britain will opt to join the single European currency because the financial clout of the City of London will demand it. "The City is heading for Europe and others will follow," he is fond of remarking. He will be able to test that conviction this week when he visits the City to receive an honorary citizenship. At a ceremony on Wednesday he will become the first German to receive the honour, joining 30 distinguished foreigners, including Nelson Mandela and former president Ronald Reagan. The British tabloid press has complained that Mr Kohl's policies threaten Britain's independence and sovereignty and could do more damage to the City than that inflicted by "the Luftwaffe in the war". But the City corporation has decided to pay tribute to his statesmanship and "remarkable" achievements in pushing through German unification and European integration. One honorary citizen is believed to have returned the award in protest.

The chancellor is in regular contact with his son Peter, who works at a bank in the City, and Mr Kohl's confidence in British financiers' enthusiasm for the euro is believed to derive from his son's insights. While Mr Kohl is being feted abroad, however, doubts are surfacing in Bonn whether he is the right man to lead the Christian Democrats in September's general election, in which he is due to seek a record fifth term as chancellor. And his enthusiasm for the single currency is colliding with an 11th hour campaign in Germany to derail the euro. In an interview published this morning Michael Glos, parliamentary leader of the Christian Social Union, Mr Kohl's Bavarian ally, hints cryptically that Mr Kohl might be more of an electoral liability than an asset. "I cannot imagine winning a race in which you change horses in the home straight," Mr Glos told Der Spiegel. "If the horses fail, we would have to make a last-minute effort to win the race... A big party can never be protected, however, from the foolishness of individuals." His comments were rebutted by Kohl allies, who stressed that the Christian Democrats were solidly behind the chancellor. But a clear majority of Germans remain unreceptive to Mr Kohl's euro propaganda. The latest opinion poll, released on Friday, under-

lined a 3-1 majority against the euro. It coincided with further calls to delay or cancel monetary union, and for a referendum on the issue. A survey in the Düsseldorf business daily Handelsblatt found Germans consistently hostile to, and fearful of, forfeiting the mark for the euro.

While 58 per cent opposed the euro and 30 per cent favoured it, 60 per cent believed the euro would be less stable than the mark. Just over half believed there would be a political fudge in May when European Union leaders are to decide which countries qualify for the single currency.

After a petition last week from 155 German economists pleading for a delay in the euro's launch, the Christian Democratic premier of Saxony, Kurt Biedenkopf, called for a three-year postponement and Henning Voscherau, a former Hamburg mayor, called for a referendum.

The finance minister, Theo Waigel, says "there is no reason for stability fears", and the government insists the euro will promote growth. But Handelsblatt says: "Germans simply don't believe what Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Theo Waigel have been preaching since 1992."

Italian police unmask prostitute with Aids virus and 5,000 clients

Philip Willan in Rome

MORE than 1,000 worried people called a police hotline yesterday after the Italian authorities identified a 49-year-old prostitute alleged to have had unsafe sex with as many as 5,000 clients, despite knowing she was HIV positive. Newspapers and television ran photos of Giuseppina Barbieri and advised her clients to be tested for the Aids-related virus. The authorities decided to identify Ms Barbieri, charged with causing grave personal harm through contagion, because of the number of people at risk.

The police said that they had received calls from as far south as Naples. Some women callers had admitted taking part in group sex at wife-swapping parties. Ms Barbieri began HIV treatment in 1996, but allegedly continued to have unsafe sex, which can cost three times as much, because "she needed the money", the police said. Vittorio Agnoletti, chairman of the Italian League for the Fight Against Aids, condemned the decision to identify her. "Why hasn't the Ravenna prosecutor opened an investigation to try to identify the client who refused to use a condom and infected this woman?"

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Diana's never ending story

The people cannot let her go

FEW people were alert to the significance of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales faster than Tony Blair. On hearing the news he reportedly told advisers to prepare for national grief on a scale none of them had seen before. His appearance before the cameras that morning, his receding of the phrase "People's Princess," both captured and anticipated the mood of the nation in a way that marks out the best politicians. As a result, and beyond the plain fact that he is the Prime Minister, Mr Blair will always get a special hearing on matters Diana.

Over the weekend he used that clout to condemn the "tacky and inappropriate" trade in the dead princess that has stretched from books to films to newspaper serialisations. Even though Mr Blair has no official responsibilities for Diana's sons — his predecessor, John Major, is a guardian of their financial interests — he spoke out as their protector. Downing Street said it was the possible impact on the two boys that really troubled the PM.

Few can disagree. It is, indeed, cruel for William and Harry to hear claims that their mother might have lived, if only this or that circumstance had been different, or to read that she may have been the murdered victim of a team of shadowy conspirators. But Mr Blair cannot simply issue an edict, or even a request, and hope that such talk will disappear on his command. There are stronger forces at work, ones for which not even he can legislate.

First, the commercial trade in Dianabilia: the kitsch knick-knacks, the memorial plates, the boxed-sets and assorted merchandise. Mr Blair may not have mentioned all this stuff explicitly, but his disdain for "commercial exploitation" signalled an agreement with those who have argued that the expanding Diana industry demeans the legacy of the lost princess. A legal defence is under construction, copyrighting the very image of Diana, so that only the licensed entrepreneur can put her mug on a mug, so to speak. But this approach is badly flawed. For one thing, it fails to see that humanity's most cherished icons have all been transformed into trinkets and junk: witness the brisk trade in crucifix bric-a-brac in Bethlehem or the papal keyrings on sale in Rome. There is a whiff of snobbery in condemning a £5 souvenir while tolerating the classy acquisition of, say, Diana's dresses — bought for much more money but precisely the same purpose. Moreover, it is far from clear that Diana's image was purely private. Because she was the most famous woman in the world, the memory of her face is something we all share. It could no more be copyrighted than Einstein's haircut or Chaplin's walk (although lawyers have tried to put a price on both); it is part of the visual landscape of our century. In some ways, this attempt to make Diana's nose, her eyes and her smile a commercial product is just as "tacky and inappropriate" as the retail trade it seeks to outlaw.

In turning back the torrent of Diana stories — in books, films and newspaper partworks — Tony Blair is even more powerless. He is unlikely to go into serious battle against the papers which have served up the most recent serialisations: the Times and the Daily Mail are new friends whom he does not want to displease. But he should be mindful that the source of the greatest conspiracy theory uttered so far — the claim that Diana and Dodi were driven off the road by agents of British intelligence — was the father of one of the victims, Mohamed Al Fayed. People faced with the most dreadful news will go to extreme lengths to persuade themselves it is not true. The Americans who could never accept the assassination of President Kennedy built a conspiracy industry that flourishes to this day. Just as the enduring market for Diana confounds the sceptics who dismissed last year's September sadness as instant mass hysteria whipped up by the media, so the current conspiracy-theorising cannot be written off as a media creation. It is the expression of a sentiment that refuses to dissipate, nearly six months on: a grief-stricken cry of "say it ain't so". As Mr Blair knows well, such emotions cannot be waved aside so easily.

A world going hungry

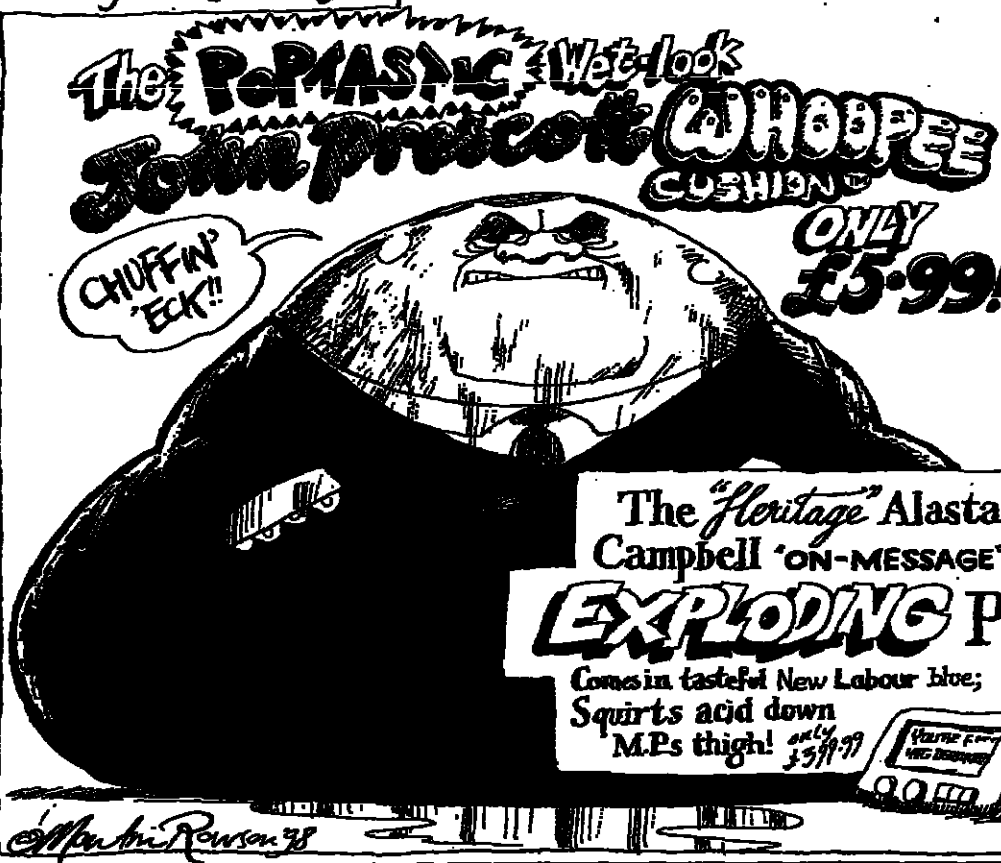
Famine is weapon of mass destruction

"FOOD IS THE first thing," wrote Bertolt Brecht. "Morals follow on." So, he advised, better to make sure that those who are starving "get proper helpings when we do the carving." How to ensure adequate helpings around the world, while we carve generous portions for ourselves, remains as hard as ever in the 1990s — which happens to be, for anyone who remembers, the UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. In the small gaps between the big headlines, brief items of news continue to reflect the misery of millions. The shorter the item, it sometimes seems, the more the millions. Emergencies do catch our attention. We have seen on our television screens the frozen plight of survivors from the earthquake in northern Afghanistan, where some 30,000 are desperately short of shelter, blankets and food. Even neighbouring Tajikistan has joined the aid effort. This should make us pause. Tajikistan happens to be one of the 20 poorest countries in the world. It is still recovering from a civil war in which 50,000 were killed and hundreds of thousands became refugees. The total of pledged aid for Tajikistan is still ten million dollars short of the target set by the UN. And it is now sending earthquake aid to Afghanistan?

While something may or may not be done to help the Afghan survivors, food is running short for ten times their number in Tanzania — refugees from Burundi and former Zaire. A conference which opened in Dhaka this weekend, co-sponsored by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation, has heard a simple statistic. Of the 16 million under-five children in Bangladesh, about 14 million are malnourished. Every day nearly 700 Bangladeshis die of acute malnutrition, most of them children under five years of age. No earthquake, no civil war, just poverty and diarrhoea. Nadine Gordimer has written of the "shameful shackles of the past" — over a billion men, women and children in poverty across the world. The new century, she says, is not going to be new at all if we offer only charity while maintaining the same old system of haves and have-nots. That may be a bigger threat than any putative weapon of mass destruction.

* "Poverty in the next century", Choices (UNDP, NY 10017), January 1998.

Tacky tacky tacky!!!



FLETT16, RU 1

Crimes and misdemeanours

READ in the Online Guardian about Della Kirby, the young single mother sentenced to four years in prison for attempting to rob a pizzeria with a fake gun while drunk. As the former owner of a pizzeria in Berkeley, let me state that we would have known, in this gun-crazy country, how to deal with an 18-year-old intoxicated female waving around a fake gun. Like, take the toy gun away and throw her out the door. Gary Craig, El Sobrante, California.

SENDING Della Kirby to prison for four years (Pistol packing coward! wanted slice of the action, February 14) for what seems to have been merely a drunken, impulsive hold-up seems pretty harsh to me. But for being a country and western fan, on the other hand... Dr R F Carter, London SW15.

JONATHAN Glancey oddly includes Barcelona and Bilbao in his parliamentary list (Take the low road, G2, February 9). But there is no parliament in Bilbao. Euzkadi's regional assembly is located in the Basque capital, Vitoria. Neither this nor Catalonia's are particularly noted by their style. He might have pointed at Extremadura's assembly, recently completed in Merida by Rafael Monzo, or the new regional assembly in Madrid, still under construction. Pablo Carballo, Madrid, Spain.

WILL you please point out to your sports writers that Michael Owen is not the youngest ever to play for England? I have a clear recollection that "Cannonball" Kidd played for England when he was only 15. I'm sure the publisher of the Etopeur would be able to confirm this from the back numbers. Mick Furey, Rotherham.

READ with interest that Jean Baudrillard has a camera (Pictures of hyper reality, G2, February 13). Since Baudrillard told us the Gulf war never happened, can I suggest he hurries to the Gulf with his camera to capture the events on this occasion for posterity. Perhaps it is not only Gulf wars but Baudrillard himself which are a figment of the media's imagination? Mike Stewart, London N8.

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

IT IS not quite in my backyard. If, in my mid-nineties, I am still scrambling up Longstone Edge before breakfast on Sunday mornings, the desecration which RMC Roadstone proposed to commit with the Peak Park would offend my eyes. And if the climb is insufficient exercise for a nonagenarian and I was then to walk east along the rim of the escarpment, the classic beech copse — which look as if they have been painted for a tourist board calendar — would have disappeared into a great hole in the hillside. But for the next 30 years an extension of Backdale quarry would neither reduce the value of my house nor directly damage the amenities enjoyed in my village. We might hear the distant rumble of lorries carrying limestone to the motorway. And as we drove home from

Declarations on rights

THERE is nothing in the case law of the European Convention of Human Rights that would justify the fears in the media that the incorporation of the convention in the UK will muzzle the press. The convention only requires that respect be shown for private life and that any interference must be justified.

However, Lord Alexander (This law must come, February 13) repeats a frequent misconception. He stated the convention only applies to the state. This is wrong. It is clear from 20 years of case law that states have an obligation to take steps to make sure that the enjoyment of all the rights in the convention are protected by national law irrespective of whether people are at risk from the actions of the state or private individuals.

Nazila Mole, Director, The Aire Centre, London SW2.

THE Lords recently introduced into the Human Rights Bill amendments drastically reducing the obligations of religious. One amendment permits a defence non-criminal abuses of

human rights if they are "in pursuance of a manifestation of religious belief in accordance with the historic teaching" of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. It is far too trusting effectively to exempt these religious. We call on the Government to reverse this amendment and review in the Commons the other religious exemptions introduced by the Lords. Iain Banks, Edward Bond, Prof Richard Dawkins, Maureen Duffy, Rt Hon Michael Foot, Lord Hughes of Woodside, George Melly, Claire Rayner, Dr David Starkey, Barbara Smoker, Dennis Cobell, London.

THE Human Rights Bill will get its second reading in the Commons today. It is vital that MPs now resist the attempts of newspaper proprietors and the Press Complaints Commission to weaken their way out of their responsibilities to the public under Articles 8 and 10 of the convention — the right to privacy and freedom of expression.

Hugo Young (Press barons put pressure on Blair, February 7) omitted one item of the newspaper industry's hypocrisy: its failure to include any "conscience clause" in its code of practice. Presumably journalists who have their code included in their contracts of employment can be fired if they breach it. But they have no protection if they refuse an assignment on the grounds that it will conflict with the very code to which they are contracted. Many newspapers refuse to recognise the National Union Journalists' code of conduct which members have been expected to abide by since 1935.

If Lord Wakeham and his masters really mean what they preach, let them follow the Swedish example, under which a journalist cannot be ordered to write against his/her conviction or to carry out humiliating assignments. Mike Jemson, Press Wise, John Foster, General Secretary, NUJ, Julian Petley, Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom.

Fighting PMT

IT WAS suggested by Katherine Dalton (Breasts, PMT and the pill bar women from boxing, February 13) that women are more aggressive when they have PMT, but that women with the disorder are unlikely to have naturally high levels of testosterone. In a recent study we have discovered that women who claimed to suffer from PMT do reveal significantly higher levels of testosterone throughout the cycle than their non-suffering counterparts. Previous studies have indicated that testosterone may increase aggressive/irritative behaviour in both animals



and humans. Furthermore, the hormone testosterone is closely related to the steroids outlawed by sports federations. Testosterone is responsible for promoting increased muscle mass and strength characteristic of males. We, therefore, support the claim that having PMT may be an advantage in such combative sports, though further research is needed. Victoria Hall, St Martin's College, Lancaster.

Brecht effect

WHAT is contradictory in Brecht's desire to destroy capitalism and retain a class system? The truth, on German TV the coverage has been massive. Overall the picture of Brecht is very positive, with ideological muckraking scarcely in evidence. Mike Lyons, Abingdon.

JONATHAN Steele (What Brecht shot, G2, February 13) claims the Brecht centenary in Germany "is being marked by a kind of awkward silence". Nothing could be further from the truth. On German TV the coverage has been massive. Overall the picture of Brecht is very positive, with ideological muckraking scarcely in evidence. Mike Lyons, Abingdon.

The Tony Blair Souvenir



FLETT16, RU 1

Unions' modest proposals for democracy in the workplace

YOUR leader hit the nail on the head (Union on the right, February 13). Granting recognition to unions doesn't mean handing over power, it is merely about the right to negotiate and to be consulted.

So it is surprising that there is all this fuss. In fact Britain is unusual in not having a statutory right to recognition and elsewhere it's usually without any form of ballot. In Japan, the constitution guarantees workers the right to organise and to bargain collectively and a refusal to do so is prohibited as an unfair labour practice. This is a bit different to our modest proposal, which requires a majority of those voting in the relevant bargaining unit. Roger Lyons, General Secretary, MSF.

YOU write that if union recognition were to be determined by a majority of those voting then "a turnout of 100 employees producing a 70 to 30 vote in a company employing 1,000 would bring union recognition for all". So? Leaving aside the fact that most council elections attract only a minority of the electorate to vote, what is the problem with the unlikely situation you describe?

Union recognition imposes no obligation on workers to join, nor on a company to negotiate. Only a union with substantial employee support will be able to turn recognition into effective bargaining influence. Conversely, why should not one employee with a grievance be entitled to union representation? Richard Hyman, University of Warwick.

FIND it a bit surprising that your newspaper finds a common principle of democratic elections to be "extreme". Surely those who can be bothered to vote must have their views taken into account. It is unreasonable to suggest that a silent majority should hold the key. A simple majority is enough to decide the trade union recognition issue; if people in the workplace are anti-union they can vote against in any ballot, or leave the union. This incorporates a defining characteristic of democracy: the recognition that people have the right to vote for choice or abstain altogether. Daniel Ferrett, Oxford.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: On a blustery day of bright sunshine between quick, squally showers with a hint of snow in them, we went back to Weatherlam, a favourite fell for almost 70 years. From Tiltwhistle we used the attractive approach of Steel Edge and Swallow Scar, steepish in its upper craggy section that leads to a pleasant tarn, and then, turning right and northwards, along the main path to the summit. Wainwright missed this obvious way, so it remained untracked until about 20 years ago, when explorers kicked a way up the scree. Much preferable, however, is to take the easy road, on the right, a pleasant scrambling staircase to the top of the Scar — our usual route half a century ago, and the way we always take nowadays, up or down. The summit, looking down to the west, Brathay and Little Langdale and across, north-west, to the Scafells, is always a sad place of pilgrimage, for it was here, 22 years ago to the day, where we scattered

the remains of a well-loved brother. But there are happier memories — especially of a winter's day, when, after an exciting snow and ice climb of the east face, in fog so thick we had to use a compass, we stepped on to a summit flooded in sunshine, with a sea of white cloud covering the Lake District, and the Scafells and nearer summits sticking up like islands. Then, turning round from this view, perhaps 20 years ago, I saw something about 100 yards away, the finest Brocken Spectre I have ever witnessed, unusually embellished with a double "glory" — my figure, enlarged many times, photographed against every gesture. That day we left the apparition looking out across the sunlit cotton-wool sea, and stepped carefully down the icy Weatherlam Edge into the muck. We took the same route the other day but, down warm rock slabs with the Tiltwhistle woodlands beckoning far below.

A BARRY GRIFFIN

Reprieve for Peak's steep stone gunnels

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

IT IS not quite in my backyard. If, in my mid-nineties, I am still scrambling up Longstone Edge before breakfast on Sunday mornings, the desecration which RMC Roadstone proposed to commit with the Peak Park would offend my eyes. And if the climb is insufficient exercise for a nonagenarian and I was then to walk east along the rim of the escarpment, the classic beech copse — which look as if they have been painted for a tourist board calendar — would have disappeared into a great hole in the hillside. But for the next 30 years an extension of Backdale quarry would neither reduce the value of my house nor directly damage the amenities enjoyed in my village. We might hear the distant rumble of lorries carrying limestone to the motorway. And as we drove home from

Sheffield or Chesterfield, we would be offended by the sight of the great gash in the hillside and the "process plant" which prepares the raw material for market. But if we chose, we could lock our doors and draw out curtains and — as is the habit in this tight little island — say that the Backdale mine is a problem for the people down the road. In a way it would be — a problem for everybody who believes that the countryside is worth preserving. Longstone Edge is in the heart of the Peak Park. It is criss-crossed with footpaths which have been on the map for as long as maps of Derbyshire have existed and it is one of the places to which Sheffielders from the east and Mancunians from the west come in great numbers on summer days. Throughout the year, a harder breed of walker — identified by boots with complicated laces, woolly hats and maps hung round their necks in plastic covers — ramble prodigious distances. It is W H Auden's Limestone Country.

"Watch, then, the band of rivals as they climb up and down the steep stone gunnels in twos and threes, sometimes arm in arm, but never, thank God, in step." Minerals have been mined on Longstone Edge for years. But that historical fact, although a precedent, provides no comfort. The planning authority reports that the limited working of earlier times "left the hillside riddled with holes, trenches and small spoil heaps. The overall impression from a distance was, however, still of a wooded hillside with some grassy spaces." That impression will not be preserved if RMC is allowed (as it still hopes) to excavate 1 million tonnes of limestone from Longstone Edge every year for 15 years. And that is only the beginning of the company's expansion plans. In the old-fashioned phrase, it intends to "win" 100 million tonnes of minerals by 2042. That will do more than carve a great hole into the hillside. It will amputate its eastern slope.

Nobody doubts that what RMC proposed would change the landscape forever. The best that the company can promise is the creation of what, in mind-numbing jargon, it calls "a dry valley feature". The improvement to nature would be "similar to the natural limestone gullies and would become low-intensity grazing land, with a gradually developing ecological value." Every syllable of their apologia from "similar" to "gradually" is a warning that Longstone Edge would be defiled — not for a decade or two until the sycamore and broom then gave the old quarry a deserted and romantic air, but forever.

It ought to be faith, rather than RMC, which moves mountains. The usual argument of "job creation" cannot sustain the vandalism. Once upon a time mining in the limestone hills did employ a sizeable workforce. But that was when the job was done quite differently. Now a combination of mechanised plant and the roadbuilders' demand for aggregate has changed the

whole process. It has also encouraged RMC to perform the fancy footwork which, it hoped, would allow it to dance round the planning laws. Planning permission for "the winning and working of fluorspar, barytes, and for the working of lead and any other minerals which are won in the course of working those minerals" was granted in 1982 in the belief that the excavation would go down to 15 feet and that, in layman's language, the valuable minerals which the permission specified would be filled from the rock through which the veins ran. That, for the best part of 50 years, was what happened — in the words of the planning authority "generally hidden from the roadside by an avenue of trees". Then RMC had a better idea. It claimed that the best — that means the cheapest — way of extracting fluorspar and barytes would be to dig up the limestone in which it is embedded. Being practical men, they would not have wasted the by-product, 100 million tonnes of limestone would be on sale to limestone buyers.

The company's lawyers then argued that there was a second justification for violating the national park. The original planning permission gave consent to mining "associated minerals" though nobody was quite sure if associated was meant to define a chemical, geological or economic relationship. But the fluorspar and barytes are embedded in the limestone. And limestone makes money. Part of the Peak looking out what "we the inconstant ones are constantly homesick for".

Fortunately, on Friday the Peak Park Planning Board voted against the company and instructed it to cease mining forthwith. Of course it will appeal to the courts and to the Government.

"Dear, I know nothing of either... But when I try to imagine a faithless love or the life to come... what I see is a limestone landscape."

Let us hope John Prescott, to whom the final appeal will go, is on the side of the angels.

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Comments
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10 OBITUARIES

On camera... Robertson and Hitch in cameo roles in *Topaz*

Peggy Robertson

Smoothing out the Hitch

DESPITE Alfred Hitchcock's reputation as a misogynist, the three most important people in his life were his screenwriter-wife Alma Reine, screenwriter-producer Joan Harrison, and his personal assistant and script supervisor Peggy Robertson, who has died aged 81. Robertson was credited as "assistant to Mr Hitchcock" on every film of his from *The Birds* in 1963 to his last, *Family Plot*, in 1976. That credit, however, was inadequate to describe her role both in administrative and creative spheres.

Hitchcock was introduced to the 30-year-old London-born Slater in 1948, when he was in England working on *Under Capricorn*, his first British film for 10 years. She was working as, what was then called, a "script girl" at Den-

ham studios. Employed by Hitchcock at Eustree studios in the same capacity on *Under Capricorn*, she smoothed away many production problems, especially the strained relationship between "Hitch" and his leading lady, Ingrid Bergman, who objected to the director's methods. As was usual when people started to argue with him, Hitchcock would turn his back, go home, and leave his associates to deal with the situation.

Somehow, Peggy managed to convince the almost hysterical Bergman to go along with Hitchcock. It was to be the first of many examples of her troubleshooting talents on his pictures. The following day, the star told the director: "Okay, Hitch. We'll do it your way." Hitchcock replied: "It's not my way, Ingrid. It's the right way!"

Hitchcock on his next film, *Stage Fright* (1948), also shot at Eustree, during which she had to boost Jane Wyman's low morale because the director paid more attention to Marlene Dietrich, who was allowed to have her own way in almost every respect. It would be eight years before Peggy would return to Hitchcock's inner circle, by which time she had married the Canadian film editor Douglas Robertson.

She was back as script supervisor on *Vertigo* (1958). According to Hitchcock, he enjoyed the chance to throw Kim Novak, whose "head was full of her own ideas", into the water 24 times. But Robertson's meticulous notes show that there were only four takes of Novak plunging into the studio tank (representing San Francisco Bay) and being pulled out by James Stewart.

The first because of a problem with Stewart's hair, the second because he paused in his dive, the third and fourth because of a mismatch in the continuity in the way he lifted her in the location footage. In fact, Peggy's copious note-taking on all the films has acted as a corrective to some of Hitchcock's mischievous exaggerations or memory lapses.

It was during the making of *North by Northwest* (1959) that the acute and acerbic Robertson, became one of Hitchcock's most trusted advisers. She was always on the sound stage when he arrived in the morning, seeing that everything was ready for the first set-up, and was also responsible for sorting through piles of submissions that arrived at his office every day.

Hogan 'Kid' Bassey

Packing the first big punch out of Africa

AFRICA can nowadays boast several names that give the continent credibility in the boxing world. However, there were also figures from an earlier age, the most notable being two Nigerians, Dick Tiger and Hogan 'Kid' Bassey. The latter, who has died in Lagos aged 65, was Nigeria's first world boxing champion, winning his title in 1957 at the age of 25.

Bassey, a man of complex personality and also a fighting machine, pummeled his opponent, Cherif Hamia, forcing the referee to stop the fight. A hero had been born. Tough and gentle, ruthless and polite, confident and modest, Hogan 'Kid' Bassey was born in Creek Town, Calabar, in the present Cross River state. The eldest of five brothers, he went to secondary school in Lagos, where he quickly became captain of the boxing team and champion boxer. In 1948, he met D J Collier, who became a great influence in his life, and who referred most of Bassey's contests. While in school, he turned professional and won the national flyweight championship. In 1950, he moved up a weight and won the national bantamweight title. Two years later, there was no more opposition left to fight in Nigeria, so Bassey

moved to Liverpool to campaign for a British Empire title. He won his first fight with a cool confidence that won over the crowd, who accepted him as a "Liverpool boy". There were setbacks, but he climbed steadily up the ladder, and, in Belfast in November 1955, he stopped Billy "Spider" Kelly in round eight to become not only the British Empire Featherweight Champion but also a world-class boxer.

His punch became world famous. Some described it as "a haymaker", others called it "the Bassey killer punch". He became a rightful contender for the world title, which had been vacant at the time he had defeated successfully his British Empire title against the Trinidadian Percy Lewis.

In 1956, Bassey and his handlers travelled to the United States. In Washington, he scored a unanimous points victory over Miguel Berrios in an elimination contest, which gave him a shot at the 1957 world title in Paris. He was the pride of Britain and Nigeria. In 1958, he was awarded the OBE.

Bassey successfully defended his world title against Eladio Montiel in Los Angeles. Thereafter, most of his fights were in the US, where he convincingly defeated opponents such as Jules Touan, Willie Pep, Carmelito Costa and Ernesto Parra. His reign as world champion came to an end in 1959 when he was defeated in Los Angeles by Davey Moore. Five months later he lost again to Davey, and retired.

After that, Bassey returned to Nigeria to become national boxing coach, a post he held for more than 10 years. He played an important role in the success of Nigerian amateur boxers on the international scene.

In the ring, Bassey's character spoke for him. He was a clean boxer and, in spite of a devastating punch, he relied on his skill, an assessment of his opponent's weakness and his speed, as much as on his marvellous physique. In 1963, he published his sports handbook, *Hogan on Boxing*, and, as a tribute to his achievements, a street was named after him in Nigeria.

He was married twice; firstly to Mary Williams, and later, in 1977, to Mary Magdalene. Between them, the relationships produced eight children.

Tago Fatunla
Hogan 'Kid' Bassey, boxer, born June 3, 1932; died January 26, 1998



Top title... Hogan with trophy as 'sportsman who did most to raise the prestige of Nigeria'

John Cooper

The word of Allah

THE journey of John Cooper, who has died aged 50, engendered a remarkable erudition and approach to the study and teaching of Islamic texts, incorporating a traditional Iranian Islamic training with a sophisticated application of critical methods. His study of Shi'ite legal theory, using modern semantics, set a new standard.

Born in Brighton, Cooper was educated at Highgate School, and graduated from St John's College, Oxford with a philosophy, psychology and physiology degree. Five years at a *Casablanca* language school kindled his interest in the Islamic world, which was followed by similar work in Iran. In 1977, he moved to the Shi'ite holy city of Qom, where he taught English and studied the traditional curriculum of law and philosophy at the Islamic University.

He then returned to Oxford for postgraduate Islamic studies and became involved in a project to computerise oriental texts. In 1987, his translation of volume one of the classical Arabic Qur'an commentary by al-Tabari appeared.

In 1989, Cooper was appointed R G Browne Lecturer in Persian studies at Cambridge, and began a period of inspired teaching, which linked his intense intellectual life with the external world of people and places which so attracted him. The abstract ideas which he deciphered came alive in the interchange with his students. His main

Tom Hudson

An apostle for new art

TOM Hudson, who has died aged 75, started from simple beginnings in Horden, County Durham, the son of a miner prominent in the union. As a student, he was given a hard time by the old-fashioned constraints of the National Board of drawing examination while at Sunderland Art School, and, in response, became a ceaselessly inventive post-Cubist sculptor and a great missionary for creativity in many forms and all around the globe.

In the 1950s, he was a core contributor to the renaissance of British art education. Teaching with Harry Thubron at Leeds College of Art, and working with Victor Pasmore and Richard Hamilton at King's College, Durham Uni-

versity, they revolutionised these institutions and propagated their methods via summer schools, exhibitions and publications. The splendid development in our art schools in the 1960s stemmed directly from this co-operation.

I had the good fortune to be involved at Leeds. It was Tom who suggested I should cross the road from the school of architecture to teach art history to his students. Certainly it was Tom who guided me from Old Master art into some understanding of post-impressionist and modern art, just as it was Harry Thubron who opened my eyes to art as such.

While Harry looked after colour and form in two-dimensional work, Tom's sphere was the three-dimensional. Call it sculpture if you like; Tom preferred words like "experiment" and "research". The Leeds sculpture school became a workshop with welding and spinning metal, vacuum-forming plastics, laying-up glass fibres in resin and other quasi-industrial processes taking over from modelling and casting.

Young men and women came to see these as natural ways of working. The results might be abstract or not, but always included an exploratory component in the use of materials and tools. He asked students to think constructively. There was theory behind this, and occasional reference to the Bauhaus and Moholy-Nagy, but the basis was an optimistic awareness of what the post-war world

had to offer if only one stepped over conventional boundaries. After art school had come war service in Burma, a teacher-training course at Newcastle, and art history at the Courtauld Institute. Tom taught first at Lowestoft School of Art, and then courses for schoolchildren to his programme. The joy and natural talent young children brought to making three-dimensional figures and objects convinced him that there was a world to be opened up to all ages.

He worked with Herbert Read on the annual series of exhibitions of children's art in London, linked to broadcasts and conferences. Sir Herbert, opening a "visual adventure" exhibition in New York in 1954, said of Tom that he had "done more than anyone else

to change and develop art education in Britain". In 1958, on a Radio 3 programme for the Read centenary, Tom spoke eloquently of Read's pioneering role in arguing for art's central place in education.

In 1960, Tom became head of the foundation course at Leicester, and then director of studies in art and design at Cardiff College of Art. The college became a focus of productive talent in painting, sculpture and all forms of art, while Tom became a one-man powerhouse for a better understanding of modern art. Always something of a performer, he was a jet-setting St John the Baptist, preparing minds and institutions for creative work in all the arts, with music and drama as particular secondary interests. Lecture tours and visiting professorships took him all over the world, and brought him back to the UK many times after he went to Vancouver in 1977.

Jackdaw



Going for gold

EVERY four years when you were growing up, you'd dream about being in the Olympics, standing on that top step, the national anthem swelling around you, dipping your head as someone slipped the gold medal over your head. But there was no way you were ever going to make the team. And figure skating was out — too many sequins. Speed skating? Not a chance.

Then the lunge would come on. You'd lie down in front of the TV and peer over your belly at your pointed toes and practice. You'd think to yourself, How hard can it be to get on a sled and hang on for dear life? Details day dreams of an Olympic gold.

Prodigal son
FROM the outset, the Prodigy were always in a league of their own. They were the techno Take That one guy does all the work, three other blokes in silly suits go along for the ride. However, while the media praises the song-writing talents of producer Liam Howlett and the Car-naby Street, post-card punk antics of "scary" Keith Flint, they've all ignored the true genius of the band — the one, the only, Leeroy the dancer.

If you've never seen any of the Prodigy's shows, they generally go something like this: one bloke (Liam) stands behind banks of keyboards and "looks busy". Keith and Maxim (the ones in "scary" make-up and elaborate costumes) come on, jump about, get the crowd excited, shout at each other and look very sweaty. And then, if you're really lucky, some other guy in a T-shirt might eventually

wander on, start running on the spot, pulling faces and, occasionally, hugging the other members of the band. Look at it this way: Liam, the keyboard/songwriting bloke has all the hassle and pressure of having to write and produce new hit songs — he's already on record as saying that completing the last album was one of the most stressful things he's ever done. Keith and Maxim not only have to jump around in stupid costumes but they have to "sing". Keith and Maxim (the ones in "scary" make-up and elaborate costumes) come on, jump about, get the crowd excited, shout at each other and look very sweaty. And then, if you're really lucky, some other guy in a T-shirt might eventually

really ought to put their back into it. Now they have to grind their way through exactly the same exhausting on-stage antics time and time again, while Leeroy simply does his "running on the spot" routine whenever he can be bothered.

In the world of rock, he's the most prominent figure to hold steadfastly to the original *Idler* ethos: the man who knows when he's onto a good thing. He might look pretty dim, but he's got it all worked out. Minimum effort equals maximum returns. The Prodigy's Leeroy is more of a slacker than a freestyle, according to *Idler* magazine.

If, only
REGRET is a funny thing — apart from being the only word in the English language that ought to rhyme with "egret", yet doesn't. It is supposed to be about things we should have done and didn't. Like the time you should have put the lid back on the toothpaste but forgot, only to arrive home and find a red, white and blue striped ce-

ment stuck to your sink. Or like wishing you'd gone out with that girl who you used to take the Mickey out of because she had the same surname as a well-known chain of brewers, and you only found out she was, in fact, the heir to a well-known chain of brewers when it was much too late. But devastating though these things may be, they're not what regret is about. No. Regret is about the things we shouldn't have done but did. When we say we regret them, we are being not so much economical with the truth as steaming the truth off the envelope with Tipp-Ex, so we can use it again.

Desk job
THE direction your desk faces will expose you to different types of *ch'i* energy. The *ch'i* energy you face will influence your own *ch'i* energy and it is advisable to decide whether it is the *ch'i* energy that will help you succeed. For example, facing east will align you with the rising sun, the beginning of a new day and the growth of spring. This energy is ideal for starting a new project, developing new ideas and expanding a business. At the same time, it is advantageous to sit with the entrance in your view and facing towards the centre of the room. Place a compass on the centre of your desk and try the following:

Jackdaw

can it be to get on a sled and hang on for dear life? Details day dreams of an Olympic gold.

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Prodigal son

FROM the outset, the Prodigy were always in a league of their own. They were the techno Take That one guy does all the work, three other blokes in silly suits go along for the ride. However, while the media praises the song-writing talents of producer Liam Howlett and the Car-naby Street, post-card punk antics of "scary" Keith Flint, they've all ignored the true genius of the band — the one, the only, Leeroy the dancer.

If you've never seen any of the Prodigy's shows, they generally go something like this: one bloke (Liam) stands behind banks of keyboards and "looks busy". Keith and Maxim (the ones in "scary" make-up and elaborate costumes) come on, jump about, get the crowd excited, shout at each other and look very sweaty. And then, if you're really lucky, some other guy in a T-shirt might eventually

really ought to put their back into it. Now they have to grind their way through exactly the same exhausting on-stage antics time and time again, while Leeroy simply does his "running on the spot" routine whenever he can be bothered.

In the world of rock, he's the most prominent figure to hold steadfastly to the original Idler ethos: the man who knows when he's onto a good thing. He might look pretty dim, but he's got it all worked out. Minimum effort equals maximum returns. The Prodigy's Leeroy is more of a slacker than a freestyle, according to Idler magazine.

If, only

REGRET is a funny thing — apart from being the only word in the English language that ought to rhyme with "egret", yet doesn't. It is supposed to be about things we should have done and didn't. Like the time you should have put the lid back on the toothpaste but forgot, only to arrive home and find a red, white and blue striped ce-

ment stuck to your sink. Or like wishing you'd gone out with that girl who you used to take the Mickey out of because she had the same surname as a well-known chain of brewers, and you only found out she was, in fact, the heir to a well-known chain of brewers when it was much too late. But devastating though these things may be, they're not what regret is about. No. Regret is about the things we shouldn't have done but did. When we say we regret them, we are being not so much economical with the truth as steaming the truth off the envelope with Tipp-Ex, so we can use it again.

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FinanceGuardian

Shake-up in NatWest board

Economics Notebook

Merger mania flies in face of analysis

Alex Brummer
Financial Editor

NATWEST will begin reinforcing its board next week by appointing Boots chief executive Lord Blyth, as a non-executive director when it unveils its 1997 results.

The bank and its regulators have been anxious to strengthen NatWest's strategic management in the wake of its disastrous venture into investment banking.

Lord Blyth, who extracted Boots from its difficulties in ethical drugs, and who has

concentrated on making his group a cash-generative machine, is certain to be seen in the City as a potential successor to NatWest chairman Lord Alexander. At the 1998 annual meeting, Lord Alexander is expected to disclose his plans and may announce a retirement date.

Speculation over the future of NatWest's senior management has grown since the bank disclosed about £90 million of losses in the derivatives markets, a year ago. The senior team of Lord Alexander and chief executive, Derek Wanless, have tended off two potential merger partners, Abbey National and

Prudential, and reversed their investment banking strategy at a cost to shareholders of £179 million.

Senior bank regulators are believed to have felt that NatWest's drive to become a world-class investment bank, led by former head of NatWest Markets, Martin Owen, was over-ambitious.

The view is that Lord Alexander and Mr Wanless might have been more cautious — hence, the regulators' encouragement of the bank to strengthen its board. The regulators are also working with NatWest to develop better risk control models.

Potentially, predators are still circulating, despite possible competition problems if an offer arrives from another UK bank. Barclays chief executive, Martin Taylor, is still keen on a merger with NatWest, though overlap in credit card and small and medium-sized businesses has been an obstacle.

If Barclays were, however, to move on NatWest almost certainly Britain's most successful bank, Lloyds, would respond with a counter offer.

Although it, too, has problems with small businesses, it believes it could deal with that, perhaps by hiring off the business to a separate bank. The drive for size within

European banking was underlined yesterday by Jan Kalf, the chairman of the Dutch financial group ABN-Amro, who said that if competitors went on merging the bank might look at more acquisitions. In an interview for CNN, Mr Kalf said mergers among medium-sized banks could weaken ABN-Amro's position. He argued that the advent of the euro would mean that the smaller banking sector in Europe would suffer in the struggle for size.

Some senior executives at NatWest increasingly believe a merger of some kind is inevitable and that the bank will not be independent in a year's

time. But whether the authorities will be enthusiastic about a merger with Barclays is questionable. There is thought to be disappointment in Whitehall over Barclays' handling of the sale of its own merchant banking arm, BZW.

The poor timing and handling of the BZW deal is thought to have dismayed some officials who hoped that the chief executive, Martin Taylor, might make a good candidate for the next governor of the Bank of England. Mr Taylor's problems over BZW may have left the Chancellor of the Exchequer with few options but to recommend keeping Eddie George.



Victor Keegan

ONE British disease that recurs almost as regularly as the flu is merger mania. We are in the middle of another epidemic and it doesn't seem to matter that most academic analysis shows that mergers don't improve efficiency.

One recent study — presented to the Royal Economic Society — concluded that the net, long-run effect of takeover bids was to reduce (by 1.5 percentage points) the return on capital of the companies making the bids. The report found that investment-led growth was much more beneficial to companies than acquisition-led growth.

Unpublished research a couple of years ago by Monitor, a Massachusetts consultancy, found that nine out of 10 firms that had outperformed their industries over a 10-year period had "stable" structures with no more than one reorganisation and no disruptive change of chief executive.

Hardly any companies take notice of such studies. The current bout of mergers has come at a time when some of our biggest companies like Unilever, Reuters and BP have so much money they don't know what to do with it. Last week it emerged that the Halifax bank was planning to give billions back to shareholders because it can't think what to do with its embarrassing riches.

Perhaps they should read last week's report in the Bank of England Bulletin, saying that despite high levels of profitability and a relatively low cost of capital, investment in general (public and private) had grown less rapidly during this recovery than in previous ones. Part of the reason was weak business investment.

Years ago business used to explain away its lack of investment on the grounds that it needed to make profits first before it could invest. That excuse no longer holds. Industry is awash with money and all it can think of doing with it is gobble up someone else.

FIGURES released last week by the Office for National Statistics show that expenditure on acquisitions in the UK in the final quarter of 1997 was the highest ever recorded at £15 billion. The report points out that this was largely due to Guinness's merger with Grand Metropolitan. But that won't prove so exceptional if Glaxo succeeds in buying SmithKline-Beecham in what has been billed as the world's biggest merger.

The gut reaction to the Glaxo move is a warm feeling of national pride since the pharmaceutical company in the world — at least one in the industrial sector where Britain

home of the industrial revolution, can claim a global success.

But hang on. Is bigger necessarily better in pharmaceuticals? Isn't this the same Glaxo that over the past few decades has proved that with good products, a bit of luck, and strong management it is still possible to take on the world? If mergers are so important in the industry, how come the biggest success of recent years has been the result of a demerger?

When ICI decided to float off its pharmaceutical subsidiary, Zeneca, it was virtually unknown. But Zeneca is now valued on the stock market at an amazing £23 billion while its former parent, the bellwether of British industry is only valued at £7.2 billion.

If Glaxo acquires SmithKline, having already swallowed Wellcome then one of the main reasons for the success of the UK pharmaceuticals industry may disappear: it is one of the few areas where a Japanese-style cluster of successful companies in the same industry compete fiercely with each other. This approach has proved brilliantly successful in Japan so why throw it away?

GLAXO may argue confidently about the need to rationalise research and development spending but how do we know that competition within a bigger company won't be less effective than competition between companies?

And globalisation? This could simply be a new way of disguising time-wary reasons for merging — rubbing salt in the wound (enabling prices to go up) and blowing yourself up in size to make it more difficult for you to be taken over.

It will certainly be more difficult for another company to take over Glaxo (unless it fails to deliver the promised synergies in which case its share price will fall and it will be on offer). What is more likely to happen is that if the merger goes ahead it will trigger further amalgamations among smaller pharmaceutical companies.

Mergers are often a substitute for capital investment. Companies find it cheaper to buy another company's undervalued assets. Yet economies cannot grow in the long term without capital investment. If UK companies had invested more in recent years then the economy might have avoided the dangers of overheating it is now facing.

Before the election, Labour toyed with the idea of making it difficult for companies to make takeover bids by requiring them to prove to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that positive economic benefits would accrue. That notion was not perfect but at least it put the onus of proof onto the predator to prove that it wasn't just an attempt to buy market share or part of an unstoppable fashion.

That solution has now been quietly dropped. It looks as if we can expect more merger mania and yet more academic treatises on why it doesn't work — which will be completely ignored by the practitioners.

Business resurrection for the Dead

THE Grateful Dead musical empire lies in a crate the size of a truck container in a warehouse here north of San Francisco, writes Mark Tran in Novato, California.

Inside the crate are 25,000 individual performances waiting to be released on compact disc to keep Deadheads satisfied well into the next century.

The Grateful Dead disbanded when lead singer and guitarist Jerry Garcia died two-and-a-half years ago. But Grateful Dead Merchandising, of which the band has sole ownership, has not missed a beat. It is bigger than Elvis Presley Enterprises, which has annual revenues of \$40 million (£24.2 million).

Music still accounts for the bulk of business; about 60 per cent of \$50 million to \$60 million gross comes in every year from records.

But there is also an ever-expanding catalogue of Grateful Dead paraphernalia: tie-dye tee-shirts, sports clothes, watches, Swiss Army knives, wallets, caps, golf balls and dog collars.

The legacy could be even more secure if the company realises its ambition to build, by 1999, a shrine called Terrapin Station. It would be a futuristic fun palace with museum, concert hall, research centre, amusements and hotel. Fundraising for it has already begun with sales of special CD sets.



Un-Dead... The late Jerry Garcia as seen at his 50th birthday in 1992. Shrewd marketing means his band lives on

PHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN MAZUR

Brown to encourage small firms with corporation tax changes

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

GORDON Brown is set to bolster the small firms sector with a package of measures to encourage the growth of such businesses in his Budget on March 17.

In a move that would delight the Confederation of British Industry the Chancellor is expected to raise the profits limit for firms paying corporation tax under next year's new instalment rules.

It was to be set at £300,000, but after being told by the CBI that this would hit the cash flow of small and medium-sized enterprises and hamper investment, Mr Brown is likely to raise the limit.

He may also introduce measures to encourage smaller enterprises to account for almost half of non-public sector employment — to become more innovative and entrepreneurial.

In his pre-Budget report Mr Brown bemoaned the fact that

despite generating world-class research and development, particularly in hi-tech areas, Britain's investment record is comparatively poor.

While the United States, Japan and Germany spent more than 2.5 per cent of their national incomes on research and development between 1990 and 1994, the UK spent only 2.25 per cent, the report pointed out.

To close this gap, Mr Brown's Budget is likely to:

- improve access to financial support for hi-tech businesses, particularly in the start-up stage;
- improve the services provided to firms through business links;
- reform capital-gains tax to encourage long-term investment;
- offer tax incentives to support research and development.

The overall Budget package is expected to be revenue neutral, but any extra money spent on the small firms sector is likely to come from a

crackdown on tax dodging, which may include action to prevent the wealthy avoiding inheritance tax by giving away assets to relatives.

Alongside specific legislation targeted at known tax avoidance schemes, the Chancellor is considering the introduction of general anti-avoidance legislation.

His plan to increase work incentives for the low-paid by reducing their national insurance contributions — to be paid for by raising employers' contributions for higher-paid workers — was attacked yesterday by the shadow chancellor, Peter Lilley.

Mr Lilley said it was clear that the Chancellor was planning to raise taxes on thousands of businesses.

"The Government has confirmed in answers to parliamentary questions that the changes to the national insurance system planned for the Budget could hit millions of middle-income people," he said.

"There has been heavy

speculation, backed by leaks from Treasury 'spin doctors', that the Chancellor intends to smooth out the hands of employers' contributions for low-paid workers by increasing the contribution made on behalf of employees higher up the income scale."

He added it looked increasingly possible that Mr Brown would abolish the 3 per cent band of employers' contributions and reduce the 7 per cent band to 5 per cent. This, he said, would cost about £1 billion, according to government figures.

Bank of England fears of a pick-up in wage inflation are confirmed today by a CBI survey showing rising pay settlements in both manufacturing and services.

Deals in manufacturing averaged 3.8 per cent in the three months to the end of December, up from 3.5 per cent in the three months to the end of November. Service sector awards averaged 4.5 per cent over the same period, up from 4.2 per cent previously.

Christie's deal close to collapse

Julia Finch

THE \$500 million SBC Warriors bid for auctioneers Christie's International was thought to be collapsing last night after a band of wealthy investors ran into organisational difficulties.

A bid for the Bond Street auction house, whose sales have recently overtaken rival Sotheby's for the first time in 44 years, was proposed in mid-December by the Swiss investment bank.

But halfway through February there is still no sign of an official offer, and a weekend report suggested cancellation could be announced this week.

The Swiss bank had first approached Christie's at the beginning of December, but its offer was rejected. Within two weeks it came back with a higher offer, thought to be \$600m for SBC.

A prime motive for the Swiss move is the growing need

for auction houses to carry risk on their clients' behalf — which means they need access to substantial financial backing.

The bid would turn Christie's into a private company, owned by a small band of wealthy investors, probably led by Bahamas-based billionaire Joe Lewis. SBC would find the investment and retain a stake in the business, but it would not be a subsidiary.

Should it now fall, there are suggestions Mr Lewis may increase his own near-30 per cent stake.

Shares in Christie's, which had been languishing at 218p last year, took off as SBC's intentions were disclosed. But amid the uncertainty over negotiations, they have fallen back to 257p.

A spokesman for the Takeover Panel, which monitors bids, said it was unconcerned about the delay, adding: "The parties are still discussing it."

Awaydays for forger Feld

Dan Atkinson

CONVICTED fraudster Robert Feld — serving eight years for forgery and misleading shareholders — has been allowed to visit London unaccompanied by police or security guards. Prosecutors have expressed concern that the former Resort Hotels chief has been given the "right to roam".

Feld, aged 45, was sentenced last April but has been appearing as a witness in a civil case at the High Court in London. On three occasions this year he is thought to have travelled from Coldingley prison in Surrey to London and back without a guard.

But this is not the first time Feld has seemed to tweak the tail of authority. Last autumn, when he was moved from Wandsworth prison to Coldingley, he reportedly sent all his business contacts a change of address card.

The Prison Service has defended the decision to let Feld travel unaccompanied, which was taken, said a spokesman, only after a "very rigorous risk assessment". Feld had complied with all the conditions laid down, said the spokesman, and was not a danger to the public. By allowing Feld to travel without escort, he said, the service was delivering value for money to the taxpayer.

But some prosecutors are

thought to fear Feld's "awaydays" activities undermine the gravity of his offences. Described by the trial judge as "a man of quite appalling dishonesty", Feld was found guilty of 12 charges of fraud and forgery, most relating to a £50 million rights issue of shares in 1992.

Feld had lied about both Brighton-based Resort's profit forecasts and its indebtedness to ensure the rights issue succeeded. But within two years, the company's shares were suspended and it went into liquidation with debts of £140 million. He was disqualified for 10 years from acting as a company director.

His appeal against sentence will be heard on March 2.

Dash-for-gas ban endorsed

David Gow

THE Government's moratorium on the "dash for gas" should remain in place for at least two years and ministers give immediate support for "clean coal" generating plants in order to preserve the deep-mine industry, recommends today.

In evidence for the review of power station fuels initiated last year by energy minister John Birtle and due to end today, Jim Watson of the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University says the "dash for gas" has led to delays and breakdowns at gas-fired power stations.

This, he adds, is likely to recur as the international equipment-supply industry searches for the "holy grail" of a gas-fired station with a high thermal efficiency 60 per cent — and the Government should set up a public mechanism with responsibility to monitor gas-fired plants' reliability.

Dr Watson argues that the increasing proportion of gas-fired stations — CCGTs — in

Britain has accelerated the depletion of national gas reserves.

"Although the latest official figures show that offshore reserves, proven plus probable, will last for at least 15 years at 1996 production rates, the 'dash for gas' has made it more likely that a closer appraisal of alternative supply sources will be required within the next few years," his submission states.

| TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Australia 2.37 | France 9.67 | Italy 2.577 | Singapore 2.85 |
| Austria 20.34 | Germany 2.8995 | Malta 0.83 | South Africa 7.87 |
| Belgium 59.59 | Greece 459.39 | Netherlands 3.2453 | Spain 243.74 |
| Canada 2.30 | Hong Kong 12.33 | New Zealand 2.74 | Sweden 12.98 |
| Cyprus 0.85 | India 65.61 | Norway 12.05 | Switzerland 2.119 |
| Denmark 11.08 | Ireland 1.1574 | Portugal 298.18 | Turkey 352.250 |
| Finland 8.86 | Israel 5.90 | Saudi Arabia 6.04 | USA 1.6228 |

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Check-out time in hotels auction

This week

Tony May

MARRIOTT International has emerged as favourite to buy the £1.8 billion (£3 billion) InterContinental Hotels and Resorts chain, leaving British's Bass and Ladbroke behind. The outcome of the auction of the hotel chain, owned by Japan's Saison Group, will be known on Friday.

The main interest in results this week will be from the financial sector which has underpinned the stock market's rise in recent months.

Barclays' profits are set to fall 20 per cent to £1.8 billion through restructuring costs associated with BZW. Woolwich, too, will look disappointing, with a 4 per cent rise in profit to £388 million, but underlying growth is likely to be nearer 13 per cent.

Sedgwick's employee benefits consultancy, Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, should have

remained buoyant, while the reinsurance and brokerage arm has continued to struggle amid difficult trading conditions and low insurance rates. Profits should be up 3 per cent to £98.5 million.

Rank's profits should be down 1 per cent to £283 million, but interest will focus on the group's £1.4 billion capital spending plan for its core brands of Butlins, Odeon, Oasis, Mecca Bingo and Hard Rock Café.

British Aerospace should show a 29 per cent rise in profit to £590 million, but analysts will be gauging the effects of the Asian crisis on British manufacturing.

TODAY — Interleaves IAF, Workspace (CS), Fluor, Environment, Eurosteel, Flying Flowers, Kunick, Norsk Hydro, Royal Dutch, SBC Business Systems, TSB Bank — Interleaves Companies to John Haggan, Marco A. Phillips Barclays, Irish Permanent, Low & Bonar, Sedgwick, SmithKline Beecham (CS), Sadiem, Amco Legal & General.

WEDNESDAY — Financial Allied Irish Bank, Allstate (Q), Murray Doss, St. Modwen, Woolwich.

THURSDAY — Interleaves Beecham, Phillips, British Aerospace, Glaxo Wellcome, Provident Financial, Sallgroup.

FRIDAY — Finance Bank.

14 SPORTS NEWS

FA Cup fifth round and Premiership

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Arsenal | (0) 0 | Aston Villa | (0) 0 |
| Crystal Palace | (0) 0 | Coventry City | (0) 1 |

Man Utd 25 10 2 1 33 6 5 3 4 19 13 33 **50**
Liverpool 26 9 1 4 28 13 4 6 2 16 12 19 **46**
Chelsea 25 8 2 1 22 8 6 1 7 30 19 25 **45**
Blackburn 25 5 3 2 30 15 4 6 2 14 12 17 **45**
Arsenal 24 9 2 2 28 9 3 6 2 16 17 18 **44**
Derby 26 9 3 1 25 8 3 3 7 16 24 9 **42**
Leeds 25 5 3 4 17 14 6 2 5 17 14 6 **38**
West Ham 25 9 1 1 26 8 3 1 10 11 27 2 **38**
Leicester 26 4 7 3 14 11 5 3 4 15 12 6 **37**
Newcastle 25 6 3 5 15 15 3 2 6 10 15 -5 **32**
Southampton 25 7 1 4 19 14 2 3 8 10 21 -6 **31**
Sheff Wed 26 6 4 4 24 22 2 3 7 16 29 -11 **31**
Coventry 25 5 7 1 20 14 2 2 8 9 20 -5 **30**
Aston Villa 25 5 3 4 17 16 3 3 7 10 18 -7 **30**
Wimbledon 24 3 3 6 12 16 4 5 3 13 11 -2 **29**
Everton 26 5 2 5 18 18 2 5 7 13 21 -8 **28**
Tottenham 26 5 4 4 14 16 2 2 9 11 26 -17 **27**
Crystal Palace 25 0 4 8 7 23 5 4 4 14 14 -16 **23**
Bolton 25 3 7 2 10 12 1 4 8 12 29 -19 **23**
Barnsley 25 4 3 5 14 22 2 1 10 8 39 -39 **22**

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|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| Leeds United | (2) 3 | Manchester Utd | (1) 1 |
| Birmingham City | (0) 2 | Barnsley | (1) 1 |

Man Utd 25 10 2 1 33 6 5 3 4 19 13 33 **50**
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Bolton 25 3 7 2 10 12 1 4 8 12 29 -19 **23**
Barnsley 25 4 3 5 14 22 2 1 10 8 39 -39 **22**

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| Newcastle United | (1) 1 | West Ham United | (2) 2 |
| Tranmere Rovers | (0) 0 | Blackburn Rovers | (1) 2 |

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Barnsley 25 4 3 5 14 22 2 1 10 8 39 -39 **22**

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|----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Wimbledon | (1) 1 | Everton | (0) 1 |
| Wolverhampton | (0) 1 | Derby County | (1) 2 |

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Barnsley 25 4 3 5 14 22 2 1 10 8 39 -39 **22**

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| Sheffield Wed | (1) 3 | Tottenham Hotspur | (0) 1 |
| Liverpool | (1) 3 | Leicester City | (1) 1 |

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Barnsley 25 4 3 5 14 22 2 1 10 8 39 -39 **22**

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|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Leading goalscorers | | FA CUP FIFTH ROUND | |
| 1. Cole (Man Utd) 19 | | 1. Cole (Man Utd) 19 | |
| 2. Sheff Wed 18 | | 2. Sheff Wed 18 | |
| 3. Sheff Wed 17 | | 3. Sheff Wed 17 | |
| 4. Sheff Wed 16 | | 4. Sheff Wed 16 | |
| 5. Sheff Wed 15 | | 5. Sheff Wed 15 | |
| 6. Sheff Wed 14 | | 6. Sheff Wed 14 | |
| 7. Sheff Wed 13 | | 7. Sheff Wed 13 | |
| 8. Sheff Wed 12 | | 8. Sheff Wed 12 | |
| 9. Sheff Wed 11 | | 9. Sheff Wed 11 | |
| 10. Sheff Wed 10 | | 10. Sheff Wed 10 | |

FA Cup fifth round and Premiership

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----------|
| Man Utd | 25 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 13 | 33 | 50 |
| Liverpool | 26 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 12 | 19 | 46 |
| Chelsea | 25 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 30 | 19 | 25 | 45 |
| Blackburn | 25 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 30 | 15 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 17 | 45 |
| Arsenal | 24 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 28 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 44 |
| Derby | 26 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 24 | 9 | 42 |
| Leeds | 25 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 17 | 14 | 6 | 38 |
| West Ham | 25 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 27 | 2 | 38 |
| Leicester | 26 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 12 | 6 | 37 |
| Newcastle | 25 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 15 | -5 | 32 |
| Southampton | 25 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 21 | -6 | 31 |
| Sheff Wed | 26 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 29 | -11 | 31 |
| Coventry | 25 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 20 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 20 | -5 | 30 |
| Aston Villa | 25 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 18 | -7 | 30 |
| Wimbledon | 24 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 11 | -2 | 29 |
| Everton | 26 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 18 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 21 | -8 | 28 |
| Tottenham | 26 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 26 | -17 | 27 |
| Crystal Palace | 25 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 23 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 14 | -16 | 23 |
| Bolton | 25 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 29 | -19 | 23 |
| Barnsley | 25 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 22 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 39 | -39 | 22 |

FA Cup fifth round and Premiership

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----------|
| Man Utd | 25 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 13 | 33 | 50 |
| Liverpool | 26 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 12 | 19 | 46 |
| Chelsea | 25 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 30 | 19 | 25 | 45 |
| Blackburn | 25 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 30 | 15 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 17 | 45 |
| Arsenal | 24 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 28 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 44 |
| Derby | 26 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 24 | 9 | 42 |
| Leeds | 25 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 17 | 14 | 6 | 38 |
| West Ham | 25 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 27 | 2 | 38 |
| Leicester | 26 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 12 | 6 | 37 |
| Newcastle | 25 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 15 | -5 | 32 |
| Southampton | 25 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 21 | -6 | 31 |
| Sheff Wed | 26 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 29 | -11 | 31 |
| Coventry | 25 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 20 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 20 | -5 | 30 |
| Aston Villa | 25 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 18 | -7 | 30 |
| Wimbledon | 24 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 11 | -2 | 29 |
| Everton | 26 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 18 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 21 | -8 | 28 |
| Tottenham | 26 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 26 | -17 | 27 |
| Crystal Palace | 25 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 23 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 14 | -16 | 23 |
| Bolton | 25 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 29 | -19 | 23 |
| Barnsley | 25 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 22 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 39 | -39 | 22 |

FA Cup fifth round and Premiership

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----------|
| Man Utd | 25 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 13 | 33 | 50 |
| Liverpool | 26 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 12 | 19 | 46 |
| Chelsea | 25 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 30 | 19 | 25 | 45 |
| Blackburn | 25 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 30 | 15 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 17 | 45 |
| Arsenal | 24 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 28 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 44 |
| Derby | 26 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 24 | 9 | 42 |
| Leeds | 25 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 17 | 14 | 6 | 38 |
| West Ham | 25 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 27 | 2 | 38 |
| Leicester | 26 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 12 | 6 | 37 |
| Newcastle | 25 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 15 | -5 | 32 |
| Southampton | 25 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 21 | -6 | 31 |
| Sheff Wed | 26 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 29 | -11 | 31 |
| Coventry | 25 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 20 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 20 | -5 | 30 |
| Aston Villa | 25 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 18 | -7 | 30 |
| Wimbledon | 24 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 11 | -2 | 29 |
| Everton | 26 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 18 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 21 | -8 | 28 |
| Tottenham | 26 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 26 | -17 | 27 |
| Crystal Palace | 25 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 23 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 14 | -16 | 23 |
| Bolton | 25 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 29 | -19 | 23 |
| Barnsley | 25 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 22 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 39 | -39 | 22 |

FA Cup fifth round and Premiership

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---------|
| Man Utd | 25 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 13 | 33 | |
|----------------|----|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---------|

Arsenal 0, Crystal Palace 0

Arsenal find Palace gates shut tight

David Lacey

THE Palace gates were locked against Arsenal yesterday and nobody could find the key. Solid, disciplined defending by Steve Coppell's team forced a scoreless draw at Highbury and a replay at Selhurst Park on Wednesday week.

On the evidence of Crystal Palace's barren form at Selhurst in the Premiership this season Arsenal will still fancy their chances of a quarter-final at home to Blackburn or West Ham. But in the FA Cup, where they have yet to concede a goal, Palace have already won twice at home.

They held Arsenal there in a goalless draw last October and for much the same reasons. Yesterday Hermann Hreidarsson, Palace's Icelandic centre-back, reasserted himself to Dennis Bergkamp and denied the Dutchman space.

When Bergkamp is held, and Hreidarsson often did so quite literally, Arsenal find it difficult to function. While they played with patience, they lacked the perception to create anything of significance through the middle.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, grumbled mildly about the number of times Hreidarsson stopped his man illegally. "We will have to buy Bergkamp an extra shirt," he said. "The referees in this country are not used to man-for-man marking and when it happens they don't know when to whistle."

"Bergkamp backs in a lot," retorted Coppell, "and he's as strong as an ox. The natural reaction is to shove back but Hermann stood his ground. It was a case of being more sinning against than sinning."

Arsenal's immediate worry is a sudden shortage of centre-backs. With Martin Keown still injured and Tony Adams starting a two-match suspension, they lost Steve Bould midway through the second half after he had broken a thumb falling awkwardly in a tackle with Bruce Dyer. Adams will be available at Chelsea on Wednesday, when Arsenal defend a 2-1 lead in the second leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals, but will miss the Premiership fixture at home to Palace on



Much ado about nothing... the Arsenal striker Stephen Hughes is relieved of the ball by Valerien Ismael while Simon Rodger lurks behind

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Saturday, returning for the Selhurst replay. This was another of those days when Martin Bodenham's refereeing smacked of two of the wise monkeys rolled into one. He heard no evil and saw no evil.

Four minutes before half-time a keenly angled lob from Andy Roberts caught Arsenal moving up too late to catch

Jamie Fullarton offside as he broke clear on the right. Alex Manninger, Arsenal's Austrian goalkeeper who is deputising for the injured David Seaman, is inclined to rush out where fools fear to tread and he took Fullarton's legs away inside the area with such force that both players ended up outside the line. Bodenham booked Man-

ninger and gave Palace nothing more than a free-kick. A week earlier, in the league match against Chelsea at Highbury, Bodenham had stayed on the pitch after an early professional foul on Gianluca Vialli. Arsenal should start buying tickets in the National Lottery.

Just before the hour Stephen Hughes was brought down by Roberts in the Palace penalty area but this time Bodenham decided no offence had been committed. Some might have felt that this evening's things up, but the earlier decision was arguably more crucial to the outcome.

From time to time Palace managed to break away but Tomas Brodin, a poorly sluggish version of the player he used to be, did not have the

pace to worry Arsenal. Bruce Dyer's influence was largely peripheral and Dean Gordon kept falling offside.

Boud came as close as any Arsenal player to scoring when he failed to follow up in time after Kevin Miller had parried a 30-yard drive from Bergkamp on the half-hour. Overmars, who will miss the replay because he will be in

Leeds United 3, Birmingham City 2

Hasselbaink restores hot-shot reputation

Mark Redding

THE star system is not something George Graham likes to encourage, but in Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink he has a striker to shine alongside any in the Premiership firmament.

The Surinamese centre-forward cannot stay out of the limelight even if he wants to, which is doubtful. The previous weekend he had made

the headlines for missing a last-minute penalty at Leicester that cost his side the game. But on Saturday he more than made up for that by scoring two goals, the second three minutes from time when it seemed that Birmingham City were about to earn the replay their valiant fightback demanded.

As his dark blue Ford Explorer, number plate JFI, rolled up outside Elland Road, he shared his relief at having overcome the Filbert

Street embarrassment that had threatened to cast a shadow over his hot-shot reputation. "I'm very happy for my team-mates that I could be there for them today," he said.

More importantly for the £2 million man, it puts his late run for the Dutch World Cup squad back on track. Not that he was in a hurry to admit it: his manager has players to be focused solely on the club's ambition.

"I don't think about it. I

work for Leeds and I think about Leeds," Hasselbaink promised unconvincingly. Then he added hastily: "But if the World Cup chance comes I'll take it with 10 hands." So that clears that one up.

Graham, as usual, was not about to let his shooting star disappear over the horizon without some reminder of gravity's pull. "He started the season well, but I thought he hadn't come to terms with the hard work and the physical aspect of the English game.

However," the Scot admitted grudgingly, "in the last two months he has been superb." Initially it seemed that this tie would be less appetising than the Squares have been given away by Kellogg's reps outside the ground. ("Tight, crispy grains of toasted rice covered in chewy melted marshmallow," it can be revealed.)

When Rod Wallace shot in the 87th minute Bruno Ri- minutes with his 12th goal of the season and Hasselbaink

followed suit in the 28th minute, the tie seemed to be dead and buried.

But in the second half Birmingham, weakened by the absence of their top scorer Paul Furlong through suspension, rallied in exhilarating fashion with a Gary Ablett header and a 30-yard bullet from Peter Ndlovu.

The game was at that point drifting away from Leeds but in the 87th minute Bruno Ri-

minutes with his 12th goal of the season and Hasselbaink won an off-the-ball wrestling match with Jon McCarthy and glanced a header into the bottom corner of the net for his 14th goal of the season.

The Blues manager Trevor Francis, holding up his hands in the qualified admiration of one great striker for another, said: "He punched McCarthy in the face and stamped on his toe to get the space to score in, but he did what he felt was necessary to score a goal and it is all part of the game."

Premiership: Sheffield Wednesday 3, Liverpool 3

Owen puts spring in Evans gait

George Caulkin

OVER the course of his brief but stellar career, Hillsborough has rapidly emerged as a venue of some significance for young Michael Owen.

It was there that he made his full debut at the age of 18, scoring twice in a pool self-combustion within sight of a place in the Champions League. It was there, too, on Saturday that he notched his first league hat-trick when Liverpool might just have self-combusted within sight of the title.

That, at first glance, will appear a harsh conclusion to draw from a match in which Owen, the fastest thing on grass apart from

Canadian snowboarders, beckoned his side back from the precipice at 1-0 and then 3-1 down. But although they played their part to the full Wednesday found themselves hanging on by their finger-tips at the end.

The Liverpool manager Roy Evans got the balance just about right. "A great game," he said, praising Wednesday's predatory instincts and his own team's tenacity. When push comes to shove, however, Evans toasts that "27 or 28 attempts on goal" ought to be enough to brush aside even the most resolute of opposition.

For a moment, when the ball was at the feet of Liverpool's nascent England striker with the final whis-

tle imminent, a fairy-tale ending looked likely. Unfortunately the striker in question was Robbie Fowler, and the resulting shot struck the goalkeeper and dribbled to safety.

This, though, is not simply another story of Owen's irrepressible rise and Fowler's irreversible fall. The former turned markers with the pace of a gazelle, as in the 28th minute when he ran on to Steve McManis- man's precise through-ball to score, and hit his shots with a rhino's power; so would it be wrong to point out the facets that were lacking? With true, Liverpool-like perfectionism Evans thought not. "He got three but could have had two more. He could have made a couple too."

Fowler, meanwhile, kept plugging gamely away without much luck. As well as his late miss he set up Paul Ince for what seemed a certain goal until Des Walker intervened, saw a well-struck shot deflected, wildly sliced another and hit the far post in the breathless ballyhoo before Owen's second.

That Wednesday held firm was largely because of a goalkeeper who maintained his concentration and a committed centre-half. True, Kevin Pressman and Walker also allowed three goals to pass them by, but they were faced with an unstoppable force.

Liverpool, by contrast, were faced merely with their own shortcomings, although Wednesday's opener



Owen... hit hat-trick

— a glorious long ball from Andy Ritchie chipped into the net by Benito Carbone — would have flummoxed anyone.

Not so the other two. In the 62nd minute poor marking allowed Paolo Di Canio to meet Ian Nolan's centre with a successful glancing header and six minutes later a fumbled clearance by David James left Hinchcliffe with an easy finish.

Everton 1, Derby County 2

Leopards and spots recalled as Ferguson sees red again

Stephen Bierley

TO LOSE one striker was unfortunate; to lose two was brainless. And so several weeks of diligent and methodical work by Everton were undone by the stroke of Duncan Ferguson's elbow into Paulo Wanchope's throat.

Howard Kendall, who can deflect criticism with a politician's sleight of word, attempted to excuse the brutal by claiming that the Scot was held and that the Costa Rican made a meal of matters. "That's a flat part of the pitch and we did not need it rolling," he said.

These words, no doubt, will be sweet music to those Everton fans who unconsciously booed Wanchope for the rest of the match. Goodison used to be renowned for its fair-minded attitude and its ready approval of skill over brawn. Times have changed.

It was also a bad day for those who believe that a little added responsibility can work wonders for a man's character. Ferguson, never a stranger to a rush of red, was given the team captaincy in late December and immediately responded with a hat-trick.

Phrases such as "changed man" and words like "mature" began to echo around Everton's Bellefield training ground. This week the talk will be of leopards and spots. Having taken eight points from their past four matches there was an understandable air of optimism at Goodison on Saturday, the trio of Nick

Barnby, Michael Madar and Ferguson rightly having been singled out for particular praise. Barnby did not start the match and before it had barely begun Madar and Ferguson had both gone.

Madar, who had just completed his first full week's injury-free training since joining the club in January, was clattered in the back and there was further bad news for Kendall when Tony Grant finished on crutches.

The cigar-smoking Jim Smith resembles an old-fashioned ringmaster in charge of a multi-national circus. It still remains something of a mystery as to how this disparate band has managed to do so well, but Derby's understated success, a tribute to Smith's managerial skills, has been one of the season's delights.

The club has not appeared in Europe, discounting the Anglo-Italian tournament, since the days of Dave Mackay more than 20 years ago. Their chances of a return seem rather good, although on occasions they make life difficult.

Igor Stimac's header from an acute angle was badly misjudged by Thomas Myhr, Derby quickly capitalised on Ferguson's 16th-minute departure, and Wanchope's early second-half goal, nicely worked by Stefano Eranio and Dean Sturridge, was seemingly the coup d'etoupe.

Then, five minutes from time, Claus Thomsen scored for Everton and the sight of the heads of Smith and Kendall flashing in the sunshine as they leaped from their benches was almost dazzling.

Aston Villa 0
Coventry City 1

More like singing Sky Blues

Jeremy Alexander hears the Coventry chorus after their first win at Villa Park

WEMBLEY would give a lot for weather like Saturday's on May 16. On current showing it would not mind Coventry too for the Cup final. The Sky Blues are playing on cloud nine, Villa simply under a cloud — which is why Coventry, at the 27th attempt, won at Villa Park for the first time. It has taken 62 years. Just now they believe in themselves more than hoodoos.

Coventry's Cup record since they won it in 1987 has also been wretched. They are normally out before the crocuses, let alone the daffodils. This will be their first quarter-final since, and they have reached it with first-time victories over Liverpool, Derby and Villa, the first and last of them away — none of this two bits at Selhurst.

The Eton Boating Song is their traditional signature tune and they all pulled together for Gordon Strachan, the touchline cox whose passion brought a referee's rebuke for overstepping his territory. By contrast Brian Little stood pensively and inflexible in his winter waterproofs — and Savo Milosevic was not in the vicinity.

The chairman Doug Ellis said yesterday his door is open to the discontented Yugoslav who has not played for a month. Little could do with peacekeeping, then his industry and polish without the spit. Without Dwight Yorke, he was virtually obliged to stick with Stan Collymore, not that he had shown sign of dropping him anyway.

What started as faith in his ability to get the best from a wayward talent is looking like self-defeating obstinacy. In 30 starts Collymore, all £7 million of Villa's record buy, has scored five goals, a significant. An advert for Villa's sponsors shows him standing over a PC with the legend "The quietest in the Premiership".

His unconcern at losing possession has been almost constant and ultimately fatal. After 70 minutes his loose first touch set Coventry off again on a move which ended with George Boateng a smip at £250,000 — cutting in from the right past Alan Wright and Gareth Southgate and Ugo Ehiogu before drawing another elastic save from Mark Bosnich.

The ball ran to Vlori Moldovan, Coventry's record buy at £24 million, who tapped his first City goal.

Villa could have been four down by then, three to Trond Solthvedt. Bosnich denied him with a half-scorpi- on, then Julian Joachim cleared off the line. Solthvedt and Boateng almost disappeared in support of their front two and Strachan's son Gavin, making his first start in virtually a reserve midfield, contributed fully. Dion Dublin was naturally at the heart of the right, but ends — going into defence when Moldovan came on for Richard Shaw.

In World Cup terms the Romanian will have noted how Southgate was discom- forted by Dublin in the air and Darren Huckerby's pace. Villa, newly aligned in 4-4-2, could have used a sweeper but Little is thinking rigidly under pressure. The team reflected their boss, as Coventry did theirs: the one predictable, the other perky.

Southgate said: "When you are going through a bad time, you look at each other and pick things up together." They got no further than the looking. Coventry, meanwhile, can look to Wembley and the hope of jolly Boateng weather.

Tottenham Hotspur 1, Leicester City 1

Ginola adds elbow grease to French polish in Spurs' cause

Trevor Haylett

THE backtracking forward had stuck doggedly to his task and was a clean tackle to dispossess the Leicester substitute. Not only was he disappointed to be penalised with a free-kick, his annoyance at what he saw as blatant play-acting by Theo Zogorakis was plain for all to see.

David Ginola has appeared in various guises for Spurs in recent weeks as Christian Gross has juggled with the

formation to make best use of his best player, though to see himself cast as the wronged party by an opponent's theatricals was mildly amusing to say the least.

Leicester's manager Martin O'Neill, offered a perfect view of the incident, is not one to let such idiosyncrasies pass without comment. "I thought that was great," he mused, "Ginola accusing another player of taking a dive."

But O'Neill was not slow either to express his admiration of a player doing so much to keep Tottenham out of rel-

egation's reach. "I watched him at Barnsley in the FA Cup replay when he had an absolutely fantastic match. Everything seems to go through him at the moment, which Spurs are probably right to be happy to have all their good players fit."

Ginola's mastery of the ball enabled him to keep two, sometimes three defenders at bay, although an unshakeable belief in his own powers sometimes turns him into one challenge too many when an earlier pass promises more. What impressed in this game

was his capacity for hard work and his perseverance in attempting to find a weakness in the Leicester defence.

Spurs showed commendable fighting spirit. Not so long ago they would have wilted in the face of Tony Cottee's goal, Leicester's unstinting endeavour and an injury toll that removed Jürgen Klinsmann, Les Ferdinand and Steffen Iversen and required Chris Armstrong to complete 90 minutes despite being short of match fitness.

With Pegguy Arphexad faultless in his handling and

his reading of the lofted passes Ginola delivered from a roaming position just behind Armstrong, it looked ominous for Spurs when Zogorakis's firm drive squirmed out of ESPN Beardsen's grasp 10 minutes before half-time and Cottee pounced.

Yet with Nicola Bertl prompting from midfield and Ruel Fox a persistent danger, Spurs refused to abandon hope and six minutes into the second half, after Arphexad had diverted Fox's shot across his area, Colin Calderwood ran in the equaliser.

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The Guardian Sport

Monday February 16 1998

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Fraser strikes again but West Indies look likelier winners

Third Test: West Indies v England, third day

Adams makes England toil

Mike Selvey in Port of Spain sees a pair
wrest the initiative away from Atherton

HOPE springs eternal but after a fightback of some determination the spectre of 1994, Curtly Ambrose and defeat were hovering over England here yesterday afternoon.

Returning on 71 for two in their second innings, an intense first session saw West Indies lose three more wickets for the addition of 49 runs, including the key one of Brian Lara for 47. The situation was then retrieved by the application — and some good fortune — of Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Jimmy Adams with a sixth-wicket partnership of 56 that in all probability took the game beyond England's reach.

Defining moments are often hard to identify, but what after lunch Chanderpaul hammered the first ball of a new spell from Dean Headley to the extra-cover boundary

Scoreboard

| | |
|--|-----|
| WEST INDIES First Innings 169 (Fraser 5-40, Caddick 5-67) | |
| England | |
| 1st innings | |
| M A Atherton lbw b Ambrose | 2 |
| A J Stewart c D Williams b Hooper | 1 |
| J P Crawley b Ambrose | 1 |
| D W Headley b Ambrose | 1 |
| N Haseeb c D Williams b Walsh | 0 |
| G P Thorpe c D Williams b Hooper | 32 |
| M A Butcher c S b Adams | 22 |
| W C Russell not out | 2 |
| A R Caddick run out | 0 |
| S R Fraser c S b Ambrose | 0 |
| P C R Tufnell lbw b Ambrose | 0 |
| Extras (b1, lb4, nb7) | 12 |
| Total (71.4 overs) | 148 |
| Fall of wickets: 5, 15, 22, 27, 71, 101, 104, 158, 169 | |
| WEST INDIES | |
| Second Innings | |
| S L Campbell lbw b Fraser | 13 |
| S C Williams c Atherton b Caddick | 23 |
| T C Lara lbw b Fraser | 44 |
| K C G Benjamin c Russell b Fraser | 1 |
| C L Hooper lbw b Headley | 5 |
| S Chanderpaul c Russell b Headley | 50 |
| J C Adams c Atherton b Fraser | 53 |
| 10 Williams lbw b Headley | 0 |
| C E Ambrose b Headley | 0 |
| N A M McLean c Stewart b Caddick | 0 |
| C A Walsh not out | 0 |
| Extras (b16, nb10) | 26 |
| Total (85.3 overs) | 270 |
| Fall of wickets: 27, 66, 82, 92, 102, 158, 159, 160 | |
| England | |
| Second Innings | |
| 25.5-11-40-4: Headley 26-37-4, Tufnell 15-4-15-4 | |
| Unhappy D B Hair and E Edwards. | |

to bring up the 50 partnership, the way he and Adams touched clenched fists spoke volumes.

The lead then was 168 and England already required the highest score of the match to win — something only achieved on eight previous occasions in Tests, including the last match — on a pitch that was becoming increasingly unreliable in bounce. They knew they had got them.

Chanderpaul, whose half-century four years ago had nursed his side from certain defeat and paved the way for Ambrose's heroic revenge, was finally out for 39, the first wicket in Headley's devastating spell of three for one in seven balls.

But Adams, himself under pressure for his place and just 14 when the eighth wicket fell, dug deep, making 53 in 34 hours — the first half-century of the game — before he struck Angus Fraser's third

delivery with the new ball to extra-cover.

Fraser and Headley had each taken four wickets; Adams had added 30 for the ninth wicket with Nixon McLean as West Indies were finally all out in all but after tea for 210, leaving England 225 to win and 27 of the most testing overs imaginable to face.

Saturday's flabby capitulation with the bat, and Andy Caddick's pathetic offering with the new ball at a time when England really needed to come out punching, ranks with some of the poorer performances of recent times. This is not a blameless pitch, and has become increasingly untrustworthy in bounce as the match has gone on, but the scores of neither side offer a true reflection of its worth.

Yet nobody — and Lara has come closest — has been able to provide the innings of stature that could transform the match and put things in a truer perspective.

For England, only the Surrey trio of Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe and Mark Butcher looked anything like comfortable, but having battled away to ward off the predatory fast bowling, they were each guilty of the soft dismissal.

Stewart and Thorpe were both out attempting to force Carl Hooper's off-spin, the latter for the second time in the series.

It can only be a relaxation of concentration after the pounding of the pacemen rather than Hooper's bowling. Butcher has thrown himself into the game with the willingness of someone who has been released from confinement and he battled with some confidence for two hours. But he too succumbed to Lara releasing the pressure valve, chipping a gentle return catch to Adams.

With West Indies starting the day with an overnight lead of 85 and Lara threatening, it was, even at this stage of the series, England's last throw of the dice. If West Indies ran away in the morning session, then there would be no way back in this match, or the series. It would be a test of character.

Atherton put his faith in Fraser and Headley, both of whom had kept things in check during the final session on Saturday; they responded superbly. Even by his own standards, Fraser cannot have anticipated the level of success he has enjoyed so far. But he is running in with a sense of purpose and aggression putting West Indies batsmen under constant pressure.

No one, Lara included, has been comfortable under his probing examination, and after the nightwatchman Keny Benjamin had top-edged an ambitious hook to Jack Russell, Fraser, to his undisguised joy, took the most prized wicket of all for the fourth time in the series.

Lara had been pinned down by Fraser's middle-and-off line, and now, squaring up, he received a ball which just



One that got away ... Shivnarine Chanderpaul makes his ground as Jack Russell pursues

PHOTOGRAPH: REBECCA NADEN

kept low enough for Darryll Hair to give him out lbw. Lara had added three more boundaries, two of them in an over from Headley, to the four he had hit the previous evening.

Headley, meanwhile, was in the middle of his best spell of the series and he got his reward when Hooper, who had spent almost an hour in accumulating five uncomfortable runs, went back and might well have walked so plumb was the lbw decision. With West Indies 102 for five, a lead of 116, England were still in the game.

Chanderpaul and Adams, both left-handed and their back foot and front foot styles a complete contrast, then played with great determina-

tion. Twice, though, Chanderpaul was fortunate to escape, surviving a close call on a run out when 22 and later on a run decision which seemed desperately close when he padded up to Phil Tufnell and was hit on the back leg.

With match and probably series hanging on the first two sessions, Atherton had placed most of his faith in Fraser and Headley, a decision that seemed justified when Caddick, recalled immediately after lunch instead of Headley, was clattered for 11 in his only over of the briefest of spells. Despite his five wickets in the first innings, Caddick cuts a sorry figure and, although he returned later to have McLean caught by Stewart at second slip, he will be

fortunate to survive to the next Test.

Headley on the other hand, had found his rhythm and, just as Chanderpaul and Adams were beginning to play with more freedom as the England effort took its toll, he found inspiration as Chanderpaul flicked outside off stump and was caught by the tumbling Russell.

Three balls later and David Williams, hero of the second Test, was made to realise the perversity of cricket when he was leg before to a reverse-swinging yorker to complete a pair of noughts. When Ambrose had his offstump pegged back first ball, Headley, the hat-trick specialist, was looking for another. But McLean survived.

FA Cup, fifth round

Manchester United 1, Barnsley 1

Watson the saviour for Barnsley's battlers

Martin Thorpe

THE FA Cup's reputation as the greatest club cup competition in the world has largely been fuelled by the enduring spirit of the underdog. Yesterday at Old Trafford life, bottom-of-the-Premiership Barnsley, while not pulling off another giant-killing to add to the well-stocked record books, did produce a performance to match the heroic tradition of this tournament.

So often battered and bewildered by their first league season among the nation's elite, the Yorkshire side are fast learning how to cope with the rarefied atmosphere. In October Barnsley were famously crowned 7-0 by Manchester United but yesterday, on the back of a run of two defeats in nine games, they battled and passed their way to within a turned-down penalty kick of victory.

Despite missing Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt through suspension, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer with a virus and Andy Cole with injury, the league leaders pummeled David Watson's goal.

For United, a draw was almost worse than defeat. The last thing they need is a replay in a crowded fixture list. If United do still entertain hopes of a unique treble then they must cope with Wednesday and weekend games for the next five weeks, including league matches at Aston Villa on Wednesday and at home to Derby on Saturday, this cup replay the following Wednesday, a league visit to Chelsea the next Saturday, then the Champions League quarter-final in Monaco four days later.

The studied, patient approach United adopt that evening will be in stark contrast to the fast and furious football of yesterday afternoon, a vibrant occasion boosted by 8,000 noisy Barnsley fans.

United's record of just four points out of 15 in the league must have increased the visitors' hopes of revenge for their

red October. Early on that optimism was well-founded as Barnsley harried United on the ball with a demonic enthusiasm and threatened more, but the champions, despite an odd midfield of Phil Neville, Ronny Johnsen and Brian McClair in a 4-3-3 formation, slowly found some attacking rhythm.

Adrian Moses's tackle denied Johnsen after 23 minutes and four minutes later McClair should have scored after being set up by Ryan Giggs, but somehow hit the post.

Another typical Giggs backheel set up Johnsen again but Watson saved well. And then the inexplicable happened. Gary Pallister played an innocuous pass-back to Peter Schmeichel and the keeper, under no pressure, sliced his clearance into the path of John Hendrie, who calmly put the underdogs ahead.

The lead lasted just four minutes as the move of the game saw United finally find the net. A Giggs chest-down took the ball past Matty Appleby and another flick inside

led Teddy Sheringham, who, running through at pace, slotted the ball past Watson.

Two minutes later Barnsley so nearly re-took the lead, but Schmeichel, making amends, blocked Ashley Ward's goal-bound shot with an outstretched leg.

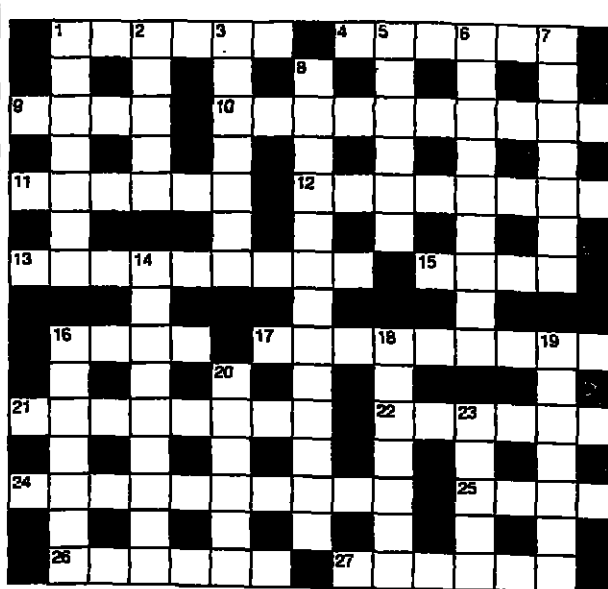
David Beckham came off the bench at half-time and immediately United resumed their quest for another goal. In between all this the promising young full-back Michael Clegg, making his first start, produced a vital saving tackle to deny Hendrie as Barnsley continued to threaten on the break.

Seven minutes from time came the penalty incident. Just as the substitute Andy Liddell was about to shoot Gary Neville dived in with a tackle that looked a certain penalty. The referee Mike Riley said no; television replays said yes.

"It was a blatant penalty," said the Barnsley manager Danny Wilson afterwards. "The decision was wrong and really cost us the tie."

Guardian Crossword No 21,199

Set by Rufus



Across

- 1 Officer's quarters housing retired soldiers (6)
- 4 Crew man showing little variation in stroke (6)
- 9 Stake boat (4)
- 10 Make light of Aunt Millie's change of name (10)
- 11 Plastered and pebble-dashed? (6)
- 12 It pushes up water rates in a re-organisation (8)
- 13 Inward-looking (5-4)
- 15 Hide Zip (4)
- 16 Notice a large number appear (4)
- 17 Where players have "their exits and their entrances" (5,4)
- 21 He appreciates the exquisite tea these provide (8)
- 22 Played piano in capitals of Italy and Denmark (6)
- 24 Blues associated with the early 1930s (10)
- 25 Period of time may be spring — but not winter (4)
- 26 Makes off-peak calls in Switzerland (6)
- 27 Repeatedly sit and rest (6)

Down

- 1 They draw the line at nothing here (7)
- 2 First job-finder for the unemployed (5)
- 3 Key question for the score-maker (7)
- 5 Politician in new test case appeals (6)
- 6 Pub favoured by college principal (5,4)
- 7 What Luther refused to do about a religious treatise (7)

CORRECT ANSWERS TO PUZZLE 21,192
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Pat Anderson of Carnoustie, Angus, R Armstrong of Morpeth, Northumberland, D Pickard of South Croydon, Surrey, Mrs M I Blackburn of Morecombe, Lancs, and Ian Britain of Dorchester, Dorset. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

8 Dispersed suspicion so that everyone could breathe more easily (7,3,3)
14 Yet civilians lived such a life in the war (9)
16 View from the flats (7)
18 Form of eroding where the Dordogne and Garonne rivers meet (7)
19 Above and just behind the clock (7)
20 Container ship? (6)
23 It transports people in Paris or Rome, perhaps around the West End (5)
Solution tomorrow

23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 228. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATIS.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the new material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

ADFPRT

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The Guardian

Sixth round draw

- Arsenal or Crystal Palace v West Ham or Blackburn Rovers
- Coventry City v Sheffield United
- Leeds United v Wimbledon or Wolverhampton W
- Newcastle United v Manchester United or Barnsley

*To be played on weekend of March 7

are the best team in the country and Barnsley are battlers." Arsenal's goalless draw with Crystal Palace means that the winners of the replay at Selhurst Park will be at home to Blackburn or West Ham. Arsenal's manager Arsène Wenger did not feel a home draw would be much of an advantage. "We didn't beat Port Vale here and we didn't beat Crystal Palace here, so in the FA Cup we don't do well at home," he said.

Newcastle fear tough home tie
[N] yesterday's draw for the sixth round of the FA Cup the only tie not resting on the outcome of a replay takes Sheffield United to Highfield Road to meet the in-form Coventry.

The favourites Manchester United will, if they eventually overcome Barnsley, go to Newcastle where they won a Premiership match in December. Newcastle's assistant manager Terry McDermott said: "It's tough whoever we meet. United

Boycott on run money, sex and violence

Maggie O' reports from

Under the shadow of the bomb

Adams fury at

inside